

Israel continues to take Palestinian land amid peace process

By Colleen Siegel
Reuters

HUSSAN, Occupied West Bank — On a stony hillside by a Jewish settlement, a Palestinian farmer pointed at a fence that looked newer than the rest of its chainlink perimeter.

"In December the settlers took away the old fence and put up a new one, taking 28 dunums of my land," said Abdul Aziz Sabatin, 65, from the nearby village of Hussan. The gnarled farmer pointed at gashes in the hill, where he said his olive trees and grapevines were uprooted by the settlers of Betar Illit. He produced old deeds to back his claim to the land.

Palestinians call Mr. Sabatin's case part of a quiet, relentless Israeli campaign both to take Arab land and to prevent their crowded towns and villages from spreading over more of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Moshe Leibowitz, mayor of Betar Illit, would not discuss the new fence or Mr. Sabatin's land. He simply called him "a liar."

"To work out his problem he should get a lawyer and go to court. Why hasn't he," Mr. Leibowitz said.

The answer came from Mr. Sabatin's lawyer, Ali Ghuzlan, who represented Hussan villagers in an unsuccessful 1985 bid to reverse Israel's confiscation of 152 hectares of land.

"There is no way to stop them... we have old deeds to the land, but nothing stands before the settlers' desire. There is nothing I can do for this man," Mr. Ghuzlan said.

Land lies at the heart of Middle East peace talks, suspended since Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin expelled 415 Palestinians to Lebanon last December. A new round is scheduled for April 20 but it is not yet clear if Arabs will attend.

Palestinians say Mr. Rabin has simply put a better face on the previous rightwing Likud government's outspoken support for expanding Jewish settlement.

Under Mr. Rabin, Israel is negotiating a five-year period of Palestinian limited self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, to be followed by a final settlement.

Palestinians fear their powers will be so limited during the interim period of "autonomy," that Israel's hold on the land will increase. Israel indefinitely barred

Palestinians from the Jewish state last week after attacks on Israelis. That foreshadowed a fragmentation of the occupied territories by cutting them off from Arab East Jerusalem.

Raja Shehadeh, a lawyer advising the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, said an Israeli campaign to take Arab land began in earnest in the late 1970s.

More than 100,000 Jews, many of whom claim the territories as their Biblical birthright, are now settled in protected enclaves among the nearly two million Palestinians.

Despite assurance by Mr. Rabin that settlement would be curbed, Arab land continues to disappear.

Israelis took or served confiscation notices on more than 300 hectares of Arab land since Mr. Rabin took office last July, says the Jerusalem Media and Communication Centre (JMCC), which does research for the Palestinian peace team.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman Oded Ben-Ami declined to check the JMCC list, saying cases like Mr. Sabatin's were impossible because the government had halted expansion of settlements.

The civil administration, Israel's occupation authority, confirmed 201 hectares of the land listed by the JMCC were now under Israeli control.

One hectare was taken for security reasons, 52 hectares for public and nine hectares were in dispute between a settlement and Palestinians who said they owned the land, the authority said.

It did not have data on how the remaining 139 hectares it acknowledged came to be under Israeli control. It had no record at all about Mr. Sabatin's plot.

A spokesman for the civil administration declined to say how much land Israel had taken during the 26-year occupation. "No-one will give you those numbers," she said.

But Mr. Shehadeh suspects methods such as claiming open areas are "state" land are about exhausted. Now, he says, Israel is turning to zoning to strangle development of heavily populated Arab areas.

Mr. Shehadeh fears Mr. Rabin, to prevent a Palestinian state, will continue settlement. He believes that is why Israel keeps almost all information about the occupied territories secret.



Young Somali girls orphaned during the civil war recite Koranic verses at an orphanage in Baidoa (AFP photo)

U.S. Marines detain Somali warlord's backer

MOGADISHU (R) — U.S. Marines briefly detained the financial backer of Somalia's most powerful warlord, a U.S. military spokesman said Tuesday.

Osman Otto, the financial backer, arms supplier and political ally of warlord Mohammed Farah Aided, was arrested by the Marines in the southern port of Kismayu Sunday, he said. He was released Monday.

The spokesman declined to give further details. Issa Mohammad Siad, a central committee member of General Aided's Somali National Alliance (SNA), told Reuters: "The arrest was aimed at humiliating Osman Otto. We suspect they are trying to provoke us into doing something."

Mr. Otto was travelling to Kismayu with three armed guards when he was picked up by U.S. Marines and taken to the city, Mr. Siad said.

The SNA has been highly critical of U.S.-led forces in Somalia, who arrived last December to restore order and to get food relief to the starving.

"We need the help of fair and honest people in Somalia. UN-ITAF (U.S. led forces in Somalia) came here without understanding the true problems of Somalia," Mr. Siad said.

He accused U.S.-led troops of attacking innocent people in the anarchic Horn of Africa country. Moroccan forces, part of the 23-nation force in Somalia, had tortured and beaten a group of 13 camel herders on Friday near the Kenyan border, he said.

The camel herders, who are now at the SNA's office in the capital Mogadishu, told Reuters the Moroccans had taken them into custody after accusing them of being bandits.

The men said they had been tied and beaten by the Moroccan soldiers, who confiscated five weapons and took away 150 camels.

"They took our weapons and said we were bandits. We told them that we were just camel merchants and we needed to have the weapons to safeguard our property," said Sheikh Mohammed Yusur, one of the camel herders.

Several of the men were wearing bandages which they said covered wounds inflicted by the Moroccans.

A U.S. military spokesman said he had no details of the incident.

Egyptian group mediates between state, militants

CAIRO (R) — Islamic scholars and intellectuals are mediating between the government and extremists to try to end Egypt's worst bout of political violence in a decade, one of the group said Tuesday.

Led by a popular Muslim television evangelist, the 25-strong group met Interior Minister Abdul Halim Musa last week after receiving word from militants they were ready to talk, said Fehmi Huweidi, a writer on Islamic affairs who joined the team.

It was the latest attempt to seek a political solution to the crisis since fighting which has killed more than 120 people flared last year.

The group, which is not affiliated to any organization, raised

the possibility of allowing Islamic political parties and the freeing of militants detained without trial, Mr. Huweidi said.

It will visit militant leaders in Egypt's prisons during the next few weeks.

"This is a very critical point. The government does not want mediation to be taken as a sign of weakness and on the other hand the militants may think we represent the government," he said.

Islamic leaders and intellectuals known as sympathetic to "the Islamic wave" had been thinking of an initiative for two or three months, Mr. Huweidi said. They included Sheikh Metwalli Al Sharaawi, a national

celebrity for his television talk shows on religion. They were encouraged about two weeks ago when lawyers defending militants on trial relayed a message that the extremists were ready to talk.

Publicly, the government has said it cannot talk to extremists who have wrecked the vital tourist industry with attacks on foreigners in a drive to establish a purist Islamic state.

The authorities have launched an increasingly bloody series of raids to crush the militants, killing 29 of them last month alone.

In private, government officials met militants in the stronghold of Assiut last summer. In November

leaders from the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, a banned but influential political group, met a senior security official.

Sheikh Sharaawi, a scholar in his 80s who commands wide respect among religious Egyptians indifferent to politics, heads a four-man committee which is directing the group's contacts.

Mr. Huweidi said Mr. Musa expressed concern at last week's meeting that militants would not honour any agreement.

He added that contacts were still at an early stage but said: "They have accepted our mediation. Mediation means both sides are ready to reach a compromise."

Former Afghan president asks to leave U.N. refuge

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghanistan's fallen communist President Najibullah wants to end his year-long refuge inside a United Nations compound in Kabul, quit politics and leave the country, the U.N. said Tuesday.

Mr. Najibullah has been a virtual prisoner inside the U.N. offices since taking refuge there on April 16 last year after he was overthrown by a palace coup that precipitated the entry of the Mujahedeen to Kabul.

Mr. Najibullah, 46, wants to leave Kabul and live outside Afghanistan where he can receive treatment for kidney stones. He wants to "live peacefully without any future involvement in the political affairs of Afghanistan," a U.N. official said.

"I hope he will be given the possibility to take care of his health outside the country," Sotirios Mousouris, personal representative of the U.N. secretary-general in Pakistan and Afghanistan, said in an interview.

"It should be easier now that he does not want to get involved in politics for the rest of his life," Mr. Mousouris said.

The government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani said last month that Mr. Najibullah's fate would be decided after a new cabinet is formed. The cabinet has been delayed by disagreements among rival guerrilla groups over its composition.

Mr. Najibullah, who came to power in 1986, lives in the U.N. compound with his brother, a trusted bodyguard and his former chief of staff, General. Isahq Toukh, and Gen. Toukh's wife and three young children.

The year-old Islamic government that replaced Mr. Najibullah's Soviet-installed administration granted an amnesty to all former officials, including Mr. Najibullah, head of the feared security police until he came to power.

However, some Mujahedeen leaders reject the amnesty, espe-



Najibullah

cially for Mr. Najibullah, and say they want him to be tried for crimes against the people.

Mr. Najibullah suffers from kidney stones and has lost weight but remains in good spirits, Mr. Mousouris said. He spends his time reading, including English magazines supplied by the U.N. and writing.

The group has to sleep in corridors of the three-storey building during frequent exchanges of rockets and artillery fire among rival guerrilla groups in the city.

One of the children was slightly hurt by a stray bullet that came through a window but was treated locally, Mr. Mousouris said.

All international U.N. staff left Kabul amid fierce fighting last August and a caretaker provides food to Mr. Najibullah and his companions.

The U.N. requested the government to guarantee diplomatic immunity to their office and the Defence Ministry maintains a skeleton guard at the gate.

Mr. Mousouris said recently that Mr. Najibullah's presence had created problems for U.N. operations in Afghanistan.

"The presence of a former president in our headquarters makes the work of the United Nations difficult," he said. "It has to be resolved."

Mr. Najibullah's wife and three daughters are in India.

Lebanese defence minister says no Syrian withdrawal

BEIRUT (AP) — Defence Minister Moshen Dalloul, in a statement broadcast Tuesday, ruled out an early Syrian army pullout from Beirut, a move advocated by the United States to speed up the peace process in post-civil war Lebanon.

In the statement, broadcast by several Beirut radio stations, Mr. Dalloul also said the Lebanese government would disarm anti-Israeli guerrillas only when Israel abandoned a "security zone" it occupies in South Lebanon.

His statement marked the 18th anniversary of the 1975 outbreak of the civil war, which claimed more than 150,000 lives and wreaked \$25 billion worth of destruction, by U.N. estimates.

The conflict ended in 1990 under a peace accord brokered by the Arab League during an extraordinary session held by the Lebanese parliament in Saudi Arabia's Red Sea resort of Taif.

The pact called for an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from its self-styled "security zone," a 1,100-square-kilometre enclave policed by 1,500 Israeli troops and 3,000 surrogate militiamen.

It also provided for the redeployment of Syria's 40,000 peacekeeping troops in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley two years after the ratification of political reforms that give Muslims an equal share of power with Christians.

The United States contended the Syrian redeployment should have been carried out last year, since Lebanese President Elias Hrawi signed the reforms Sept. 22 and parliament ratified them two days later.

President Bill Clinton's admin-

istration renewed the U.S. commitment to the Taif accord when Secretary of State Warren Christopher said he revived the Syrian redeployment issue during his visit to Syria and Lebanon in February. But he drew negative responses.

"Syria has been the only country that gave us whatever assistance we requested. We have asked Syria to stay on, not to leave. Any talk about a Syrian redeployment at present amounts to heresy," Mr. Dalloul said.

The Syrians have been stationed in nearly two-thirds of Lebanon's territory under a 1976 Arab League peacekeeping mandate that mandate has been superseded by the Taif accord.

Mr. Dalloul said the newly restructured Lebanese army still needed the support of Syrian troops to restore state authority over Lebanon's entire territory.

The 42,000 Lebanese troops have reestablished law and order in Beirut and its environs since the end of the civil war. But more soldiers are needed to bring north, east and south Lebanon under government control.

The United States has also been pressing the Lebanese government to disarm the Iranian-backed Hizbollah, whose guerrillas are waging a war against the Israeli-held enclave in the south.

"I can guarantee that once Israel pulls out from the south only Lebanese army weapons are allowed to remain in the region," Mr. Dalloul said. "We can't allow ourselves to become cops protecting the occupier. This is high treason."

Pakistan faces protest over crackdown

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A government crackdown on Arabs living illegally in Pakistan has angered its mighty religious parties, sparked demonstrations nationwide and fired anti-American feelings.

"We are deeply disturbed, outraged and ashamed at what our government has done to our Arab guests," Khurshid Ahmad, deputy chief of Pakistan's small but powerful Jamaat-e-Islami (Party of Islam), said.

In the past week police have arrested hundreds of Arab nationals living in the rugged North-West Frontier Province that borders on war-torn Afghanistan.

They say they have become pariahs. "Pakistan is talking to us like we are the enemy, like we are here to destroy their country,"

said Abdul Qudus, a Jordanian who said he will take his dream of creating an Islamic state to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Jamaat-e-Islami, an estranged partner in Pakistan's ruling coalition, has called for street demonstrations to protest the crackdown and American interference.

Clerics in mosques throughout the country have begun criticising the government policy, which they claim was imposed by Washington.

"Pakistan is behaving stupidly mainly because of pressure from the outside, from America. They should be man enough to say no. These are our Muslim brothers," said Mr. Ahmad.

But Pakistan is also under pressure from several fellow Muslim states, including Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia. Those governments fear that

the Islamic fundamentalists could cause problems at home. Many of the Arabs say they came to fight in neighbouring Afghanistan's "holy war" against Soviet invasion forces.

Most of those who stayed on after last year's rebel victory are helping rebuild the war-shattered country, but others remained because of links to fundamentalist Islamic groups outlawed in their home country.

While Mr. Ahmad preached non-violence, he warned of a backlash to the crackdown.

Many Libyans arrested last month in Peshawar threw band grenades at police before surrendering.

"If we try to push them to the wall it would be unfortunate for them and unfortunate for us if they resort to violence," Mr. Ahmad said.



Employees of Islamic groups helping Afghan refugees stage a protest in Peshawar against the government's crackdown on Arabs (AFP photo)

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Envoy Special
19:00	News in French
19:15	French Varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Chance in a Million
21:00	Local Programme
21:30	Documentary
22:00	News in English
22:20	2000 Mailbox Road
PRAYER TIMES	
04:44	Fajr
06:04	Dhuhr (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:36	Dhuhr
16:13	Asr
19:08	Maghreb
20:29	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetfish, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773201	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be relatively hot and winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman 12 / 28	
Aqaba 18 / 30	
Deserts 10 / 30	
Jordan Valley 14 / 32	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 25, Aqaba 34. Humidity readings:	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Bahjat Bader	849362
Dr. Hisham Kanaan	790286
Dr. Ghazi Abu Sheikha	752405
Dr. Adnan Al Zughoul	898140
Firas pharmacy	661912
Pedrows pharmacy	718336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Natroukh pharmacy	626772
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Shuciani pharmacy	644945
Natroukh pharmacy	637660
Natroukh pharmacy	626772
Natroukh pharmacy	847632
AMMAN:	
Dr. Bahjat Bader	849362
Dr. Hisham Kanaan	790286
Dr. Ghazi Abu Sheikha	752405
Dr. Adnan Al Zughoul	898140
Firas pharmacy	661912
Pedrows pharmacy	718336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Natroukh pharmacy	626772
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Shuciani pharmacy	644945
Natroukh pharmacy	637660
Natroukh pharmacy	626772
Natroukh pharmacy	847632
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775221
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Harbours Department	658900
Price Complaints	661776
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	
(directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdull Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	836381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
QJ Flight Information	08-53200
Princess Haya Hospital	08-53200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussien Medical Centre	81381/302
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	6442816
Jabal Amman Maternity	6424412
Malles, J. Amman	625262
Palestine, Shumaili	636140
Shumaili Hospital	669131
University Hospital	858945
AB-Mushay Hospital	6672219
The Islamic, Abdull	6661737
Al-Ahli, Abdull	6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Asrafich	7751126
Arny, J. Amman	8916115
Queen Alia Hospital	66224950
Arny, J. Amman	66224950
Amal Hospital	674155
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:00	Aden (RJ)
06:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
07:55	Amman (RJ)
08:00	Jeddah (RJ)
08:10	Larnaca (RJ)
08:30	London (RJ)
08:45	Frankfurt (RJ)
09:15	London, Brussels (RJ)
09:30	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
10:30	Brussels, Paris (RJ)
10:45	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
11:15	Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
11:30	London, Brussels (RJ)
11:45	Rome (RJ)
06:45	Damascus (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:45	Dubai (AZ)
07:40	Karachi (PI)
08:35	Cairo (MS)
10:30	Sanaa (Y)
11:30	Jeddah (SU)



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday meets with Pakistan's Chief of Staff of the Air Force General Farouq Fairouz Khan

Premier receives Pakistan's army chief

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday received visiting Chief of Staff of the Pakistani Air Force General Farouq Fairouz Khan and the accompanying delegation.

Sharif Zeid reviewed with Gen. Khan Jordanian-Pakistani relations and means of enhancing

coordination and cooperation in issues of mutual concern to the Armed Forces in both countries. They also reviewed the role played by Armed Forces personnel from both countries in serving world peace and security, particularly in tension and conflict zones.

The two officials reviewed the

situation in the Middle East and highlighted the need for establishing a just and durable peace in this strategic part of the world. The meeting was attended by Chief of Staff of the Royal Jordanian Air Force Brigadier Awni Bilal, the Pakistani ambassador and the Pakistani military attaché in Amman.

Germany to grant Jordan DM 6 m for agricultural, veterinary fields

AMMAN (J.T.) — Germany is to grant Jordan six million DM in financial and technical aid, to help it implement its development projects, according to two memoranda and one agreement signed by the two sides in Amman Tuesday.

Under a financial agreement, Germany will immediately make available to Jordan the sum of 3 million DM as a grant to finance studies and the cost of providing experts working on projects in Jordan.

The two notes, together worth 3 million DM, will cover agricultural development.

The first provides for technical assistance from Germany to help Jordan implement agricultural plans, improve production and

promote the work of agricultural extension services.

It stipulates that Germany will provide equipment and training of Jordanian technicians and other staff.

The second note is related to the work of the Jordan Centre for Veterinary Vaccine (JCVC) at Yajouz district.

The centre is affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture. The note said the technical assistance in this regard aims at promoting and modernising the centre by supplying experts to enable the facility to adapt to international standards.

In this respect, Germany will provide laboratories and specialists to help Jordanian personnel to produce, monitor and work on

vaccines used in the veterinary profession.

The JCVC, which was established with help of the German Agency for Technical Development GTZ, began by producing 80 million doses of several vaccines for local and export markets, but later raised the production to 170 million doses of which only half are being consumed in Jordan.

According to JCVC officials, Germany has promised to provide technical assistance to the centre to help it in its plan to privatise.

The two notes and the financial agreement were signed by Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz and German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reiners.

RSS celebrates 23rd anniversary

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) today celebrates 23rd anniversary of its establishment which came into implementation of a Royal Decree issued on April 14, 1970.

On this occasion, the Jordan News Agency (Petra), interviewed Dr. Hani Mulki, RSS President and Secretary General of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST). Hani Mulki, who said that the establishment of RSS as a national centre for research and industrial services stemmed from the Hashemite leadership's belief in the necessity to link the education process on the one hand with the research and development activities on the other.

RSS concentrated in its early years on training graduates of Jordanian universities and its cadres in order to provide them with access to the technological development in addition to theoretical knowledge.

On financial assistance to RSS, Dr. Mulki said that supporting the national research centres is a national duty which should be shouldered by the public and private sectors.

But he added that the RSS self-revenues currently cover its recurrent expenses.

Dr. Mulki noted that the government's support to research activities decreases proportionally

with the progressive achievement in development, whereas the private sector's support for such activities increases.

Referring to RSS interaction with the industrial sector, Dr. Mulki said RSS plays a major role in monitoring the compliance of Jordan's products to the national and international standards and specifications, as well as providing technical services to upgrade quality within the general framework of increasing the local value added (materials and manpower) to improve the international competitiveness of Jordanian products abroad. He said that adherence to these specifications, paves the way for Jordanian industries in the international markets.

Touching on training, Dr. Mulki said it is another important and major input to the industry in particular and the development process in general.

He added that RSS expanded its programmes in applied education and established for this purpose the Princess Sumaya University College for Technology which offers courses leading to the B.Sc degree in computer science and its applications.

At the sectorial level, Dr. Mulki said that RSS implemented in the last two decades tens of pioneering projects in various fields of development.



Princess Sumaya University College for Technology

These projects include the national project to monitor the quality of water in Jordan, designing units for industrial waste water treatment, studying industrial pollution in Jordan, development of a building system for the low-income groups, utilization of renewable energy resources as alternatives to conventional energy resources, introducing computer to improve the activities of

electronic institutions, developing electronic equipment for various purposes, maintaining the medical equipment for the Ministry of Health, working out solutions to the mechanical problems facing our industries, and testing our locally made and important products especially foodstuffs to ensure their suitability for human consumption.

Dr. Mulki expressed RSS' gra-

atitude to the various institutions as well as the countries that supported RSS through its march, mentioning in particular the governments of Germany, Japan, and Italy, as well as the European Communities (EC) institutions.

In conclusion, Dr. Mulki said RSS "future programmes and plans depend mainly on the needs and requirements of our national development plans."

Weekly PSD bulletin reports decline in thefts

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) reported that between April 3 and 9 the rate of robberies, car thefts and embezzlements decreased significantly compared with the previous week, but the number of attempted murders remained the same.

A weekly PSD statistical bulletin said there were 13 reported robberies last week and nearly three-quarters of them were solved.

Festive firings rose to six resulting to the death of one person and injury to two others, the statement said.

A total of 10 smuggling attempts were reported against the previous week, but all the new cases were prosecuted, said the statement.

Only four cars were reported stolen, three of which have been retrieved; a decline from 12 reported car thefts the previous week.

A man from shuneh was reported to have shot and killed his sister on April 4 in an alleged honour crime, according to the PSD statement.

It said that in another incident in the badia (desert) region, a man stabbed and killed his sister because of a family feud.

Also last week, the badia and border police forces aborted attempts to smuggle 270 car tyres and 12,505 heads of sheep into Jordan from a neighbouring country.

Russia aid

(Continued from page 1)

reach the streets before Russian voters decide whether to keep Mr. Yeltsin in power and his political and free-market reform programmes going.

"I don't anticipate that any of this money will be dispersed and putting goods into people's hands within two weeks," a senior U.S. official said as he flew here with Mr. Christopher.

The G7 talks Wednesday and Thursday are expected to produce an overall package of about \$30 billion, of which \$6 billion was authorised at the G7 economic summit in Munich, Germany, last year.

Arab Baath Progressive Party licensed

By Saad Silawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The number of legalised political parties in Jordan Tuesday reached 17 with the licensing of the Arab Baath Progressive Party (ABPP).

"Our party will seek to achieve social justice, equality and equal opportunities for all citizens; and above all, it will spare no efforts in extending national unity and in cementing continued support to the Palestinian people to enable them to establish their independence on Palestinian soil," said Fuad Dabbour, the party's spokesman.

Expressing deep satisfaction over Minister of Interior Jawdat Shoul's announcement Tuesday that the party has been legalised, Mr. Dabbour said that he highly values the democratisation process in Jordan and that his party would strive to support, deepen and protect this process so that Jordan would serve as a model for other nations.

The ABPP has repeatedly confirmed that democracy remains the only ideal formula that can guarantee for each citizen the right to freedom and dignity and enable him to become productive and contribute towards the construction of his nation and cap-

able of defending the homeland, said Mr. Dabbour.

"Our party believes that democratic rule, and genuine popular participation in the decision-making process creates an oasis of security and stability," added the spokesman.

"Our Jordanian people are pan-Arabists by nature, and are known to cherish a true sense of national belonging; and for this reason the Jordanians have been struggling to attain pan-Arab unity, he continued.

Mr. Dabbour said that the ABPP will strive to help Jordanians attain their aspirations in pan-Arab unity which is the only

way for the salvation of the Arab Nation and the only way leading to progress, freedom, power and a decent life.

In this regard, he added this party pledges to dedicate its struggle to attain solidarity and unity among the Arab States and do all in its power to help the Arab countries achieve unity.

The ADPP had submitted an application to the Interior Ministry to obtain a licence in February 1993, in accordance with the provisions of the Jordanian Constitution, the National Charter and the 1992 Political Parties Law.

The application was signed by 76 founding members

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Workshop focuses on educational supervision

AMMAN (Petra) — A one-day training workshop on educational supervision was held Tuesday at the Teachers Club in Amman.

The workshop, organised by the Ministry of Education's Educational Training Centre, was attended by 100 school supervisors and heads of supervisory sections at the various education departments.

Addressing participants, director of the centre Mohammad Jumaa Al Wahsh stressed the importance of educational supervision, saying that it constitutes a major pillar of the educational process and a focal point linking the ministry with the various educational institutions, including schools.

Dr. Wahsh said the ministry is striving to upgrade the quality of education and to enable teachers to play an effective role in developing the educational process.

He pointed out that the centre has prepared an integrated programme for training school supervisors.

The programme includes workshops for all supervisors, heads of supervisory sections and technical directors, to define the status quo of the supervisory process, identify needs and formulate programmes to develop educational supervision.

Participants heard lectures on the role of school supervisors and headteachers in the technical development of teachers, methods of educational supervision, preparing reports on school visits, and planning, training and evaluation of teachers' performance.

Industrial investments rise significantly, says ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — In the last two years investments in industrial businesses in Jordan have significantly increased and the Ministry of Industry and Trade predicts more such projects in the future.

According to a published report issued Tuesday by the ministry's Department of Industrial Development, industrial schemes were not restricted to Amman, but were also distributed to several governorates.

The report said 821 industrial projects were implemented in 1991 and 1,019 others began in

1992. Last year, projects executed in the Amman region numbered 787, up from 632 in 1991, the report said.

The total number of new food industries registered between 1990 and 1992 was 482, accounting for 21 per cent of the total number of new projects; engineering industrial projects made up 20.3 per cent in the same period.

The report said registered capital invested in Jordanian industries in 1990 was JD

35,720,000, in 1991 it was JD 96,218,000 and in 1992 it was JD 227,850,000.

Of the total invested capital in industries by the end of 1992 total foreign capital was estimated at JD 23,855,000, up from JD 3,381,000 in 1990.

The report said the total number of non-Jordanian investors in 1990 stood at 134, and rose to 186 by the end of 1992.

Also according to the report, Jordanian industries employed 4,980 workers in 1990 and 15,580 in 1992.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Man gives up suicide attempt

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian citizen who threatened to commit suicide in Amman Tuesday turned himself in to police after hundreds of spectators gathered to watch him sit at the edge of the roof of a four-storey building near the Sports City. Police immediately took the man into custody to investigate the case at Al Rashid Police Station. Police sources refused to reveal any information about the identity of the man or the motives for attempting suicide, saying that investigations are still under way.

Weather chief heads for Geneva meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Meteorology Department Ali Abanda Tuesday left for Geneva to take part in international conference on global climate. The conference will discuss effects of human activities on climate and the preparation of programmes and plans to measure the effects of climate on monitoring climate changes and their impact on human resources and the environment. The conference will work out solutions for climate and environmental problems and allocate financial aid to developing countries to help them honour their commitments and preserve the global climate and environment.

Jordan, Libya ratify agreements

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Libya Tuesday exchanged instruments of ratification of four agreements concluded last year. The exchange took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The agreements cover trade, maritime traffic, tourism and training. Endorsing the instruments of ratification for Jordan was Foreign Ministry Secretary General Hussein Hamami, and for the Libyan government, Libyan ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Baoush.

Children's cultural festival to open

AMMAN (Petra) — Friends of the Children's Club in Amman will organise a week-long festival on April 24. The festival, entitled "The Kindergarten's Cultural Festival," includes book exhibitions, theatre performances, cultural and educational events, in addition to music recitals, songs and poetry.

Minister inaugurates Jordanian book exhibit

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif Tuesday opened the Jordanian Exhibition of Books and Educational Aids at the International Expo Centre on the University of Jordan road.

Taking part in this exhibition are 50 Jordanian publishing houses.

On display are some 10,000 titles as well as educational aids. Mr. Sharif toured the various sections of the exhibition and praised the high standard of Jordan's cultural production.

The minister stressed the importance of such exhibitions in



Royal Jordanian (RJ) Chief Executive Officer and President Mahmoud Jamal Balqez Tuesday meets with visiting Director General of Air Algérie Shakib Al Beillil at RJ headquarters in Amman.

RJ president meets with visiting Air Algérie head

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) Chief Executive Officer and President Mahmoud Jamal Balqez Tuesday received visiting Director General of Air Algérie Shakib Al Beillil and discussed with him means of cooperation between Jordan's national carrier and the Algerian airline, in areas of training, marketing, maintenance and related air transport services.

Mr. Balqez and his guest toured the RJ Technical Department installations and watched the maintenance work being carried out on four model JT 8D jet engines. Mr. Beillil listened to a briefing

by Zeid Kilani, deputy executive director of RJ and director of the Technical Department, on the facilities available at the department.

In a statement to the Jordan Times, Mr. Kilani said the maintenance workshops enjoy an excellent reputation at the Arab and international levels qualifying them to win several contracts for maintenance projects on plane and jet bodies and engines of Arab and foreign airlines.

The RJ Technical Department achieved a net profit of \$10 million in 1992, and expects a \$15 million net profit this year.

Jordan to attend U.N. meeting in Kenya

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in the meetings of the 14th session of the United Nations Committee on Human Settlements which will convene in the Kenyan capital between April 26 and May 5. Jordan's delegation to the meetings will be headed by Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayel Sourur and will include Director General of the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Youssef Hiyasat and William Halasa.

CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) new numbers are:

- ★ Telephone: 825750
- ★ Fax: 825930
- ★ Tlx: 23278
- ★ P.O.Box: 950764

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Co.

Invites

Contractors to participate in tender No. 3/93 for supply of spare parts for its Mercedes trucks type (L&S 2624) as per parts numbers and quantities attached with terms of tender.

Contractors wishing to bid for tender can obtain copies of tender documents from the company in Jabal Al Hussein — behind Ministry of Health — opposite Al Fadel Ibn Abbas Mosque — Amman for a non-refundable fee of JD 120,000 (one-hundred and twenty Jordanian dinars) per a copy, bearing official documents proving their registration in records of trading agents.

Offers should be submitted not later than 2:30 p.m. (Jordan local time) on Saturday the 15th of May / 1993.

Chairman, General Manager
Hisham Asfour

Jordan Times

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Economic Forum

Protection under free markets

By Dr. Abdulla Malki

As a matter of rule, there should be no protection; industries must be fit enough to survive on their own. However, as a matter of exception, protection is conceivable but must be tentative and selective. Permanent protection does induce laxity and inefficiency; indiscriminate protection can very well lead to economic waste.

The classical view maintains that protection creates industries that produce poor quality goods at high costs that sell necessarily at high prices. This may be true, but it is strictly an abstraction. Practically, all countries have protected their domestic industries, directly or indirectly.

Despite all the ado about the advantages, or even the magic, of open markets, there is no empirical evidence that dismantling protection improves the quality of domestic goods and services.

Even when certain industries do improve their products and performance thanks to no protection from the state, there must be a study on domestic industries which perished, under the impact of the ensuing foreign competition, not in favour of other domestic industries but, more critically, in favour of foreign ones. The disappearance of domestic industries in these cases constitutes a net national cost. It may be a benefit from the standpoint of the world at large, but this is scarcely a consolation, or a

compensation, to the inflicted country.

The crucial point is that when we abolish existing protection, we do not start from scratch. In other words, the no-protection policy is applied to an existing national economy with ongoing (industrial, agricultural or service) enterprises some of which will inevitably be scrapped out. This entails a destruction of capital formation and therefore second thoughts are warranted before taking the new medicine. If we are to start from scratch, that is if we are to start a new economy, there will be no question about dropping the protection option.

Once upon a time, an argument was widely and wildly circulated in Jordan that the Jordanian dinar had been overvalued. The argument went to say that the dinar must therefore be devalued and that devaluation would lead to an economic revolution. Exports would soar skyhigh and imports would nose-dive. The dinar had been devalued. Capital fled away, even Jordan's private foreign exchange reserves dried up, prices soared and the whole Jordanian economy moved to the verge of complete collapse and ended up at the door of the International Monetary Fund. After devaluation, and contrary to all theorisation, imports grew at a higher rate and exports expanded at a very

modest rate. And mind you, no study, until this very moment, has been conducted in Jordan to check whether the dinar was really overvalued, or undervalued, and by how much.

A similar story has been in the making during the last two to three years. The much publicised ongoing hypothesis holds it that protection has spoiled and hurt domestic industries and therefore should be eliminated. But this hypothesis has never been investigated although it has served as a basis for Jordan's new free-import policy under which protection is being outlawed and phased out. If anything, one can cite glaring evidence showing that dismantling protection has been destroying a once very prosperous domestic industry, namely the cigarettes industry. A full-fledged open import policy will certainly uproot this national industry.

Free trade advocates are industrialised countries not the developing ones because the former are the ones which stand to win. Developing countries can neither win the battles of quality and prices nor have the capacity to serve the world markets as developed ones. In a world like this, protection is necessary for developing countries but it must be both selective (given to promising industries) and tentative (until they grow up).

Issues for now and later

THE JUST-CONCLUDED Arab labour conference was an important event not only in terms of its political significance but also because of the weight of the nation's labour issues discussed by it. The fact that Amman has successfully hosted the Arab meeting, and Arab participation was near perfect suggests that inter-Arab relations can and will in the end rise above political bickering.

For instance, the Kuwaiti delegation's announcement that Kuwait would honour its commitment and pay compensation to all Jordanian and Palestinian workers who lost their livelihood and residency in the aftermath of the Gulf war is a commendable gesture on which more can be built.

The Arab discussions were also important in terms of the economic issues that were dealt with as well. Several labour-related subjects were addressed not only to bring the Arab World closer to an overall strategy but also in preparation for the International Labour Office's (ILO) conference due to begin in Geneva next June. The Geneva meeting will be yet another occasion to address the Palestinian labour conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In the wake of Israel's decision to seal off the occupied territories, the labour conditions in these areas have deteriorated considerably. It is estimated that the Palestinian economy loses \$3 million a day as a result of the Israeli siege of the occupied territories. Even Israeli economists are predicting dire consequences in the affected areas if the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip continues for much longer. Tens of thousands of Palestinian labourers are affected by the Israeli arbitrary decision to cut off the West Bank and Gaza Strip from Israeli markets with which the Palestinian people had to establish economic relations and depend on in the wake of the occupation of their lands in 1967.

Labour experts believe now that no less than \$2.5 billion is needed to generate employment conditions for the unemployed Palestinians. This new dimension in the Palestinian conflict calls for urgent consideration and devising new strategy to deal with the Geneva ILO meeting and at other international levels.

There are of course many other Arab labour issues that call for immediate resolution. With unemployment in the Arab World on the rise and productivity on the decline there is a pressing need to deal with these critical topics. Left unresolved for much longer unemployment and unproductivity will be translated into difficult and ominous political crises that could threaten not only the directly affected Arab states but also the more developed among them. There is no way that the rich Arab states can be saved from the shock waves triggered by Arab underdevelopment. It would seem mutually beneficial therefore, to both the have and have-nots in the Arab World, to join forces in combating poverty and backwardness throughout the nation. No Arab labour strategy can in fact work unless it includes a clear effort to bridge the growing gap between the rich and poor Arab countries. This should be a top lesson from the Gulf war.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARIES

STATEMENTS BY the Kuwaiti foreign minister that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are in agreement that normalisation of relations between these two countries and Jordan would not happen in the near future because the Jordanian Press maintains attacks on the emirate did not bring any novelty, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. Such statements are something to be expected from Kuwaiti officials who have now shown their true nature to the world, said the daily. These officials seem to have discovered that their affiliation to their Arab Nation constituted an offence to them and preferred to transform their emirate into a gas station that enjoys no sovereignty and lacks the will power to take decisions of its own, the paper continued, with these statements, the Kuwaiti foreign minister has exposed his country's role as an agent for the major world powers in the Gulf region and showed beyond doubt that Kuwait is living under the illusion that the oil wealth has transformed the emirate into a major world power. What is worse, the Kuwaiti minister has tried through these statements, published by Al Hayat Newspaper of London, to cheat readers into believing that his country's stand vis-a-vis Jordan was copied by Saudi Arabia said the daily. It said the Kuwaiti minister can issue statements at will, as he and others like him are excused for such a behaviour because they have lost all sense of national belonging and have nothing left except the feeling of shame and the loss of peace of mind.

THE ARAB labour conference which has just ended in Amman represented a ray of hope for Arabs' future since it brought together the different Arab states for the first time since the Gulf conflict, said Al Dustour Arabic daily Tuesday. The deliberations and the conclusion gave evidence that the Arab states are determined to hold on to joint Arab action in dealing with the numerous problems plaguing their nation and are resolved to solve their differences in order to pave the ground for better cooperation, the paper said. The conference assumed added significance because it was held under very difficult regional circumstances and at a time when solidarity among the Arabs was not needed, the paper added. The deliberations were rich in ideas about joint action in labour-related affairs and the addresses reflected Arab states' adherence to their institutions, it pointed out. In referring to Jordan's role at the conference, the paper said the country played an instrumental part not only in creating an atmosphere marked by cooperation and understanding, but acted in the most practical manner to help the delegates arrive at a very successful conclusion.

Democracy alone can safeguard human rights, democracy

Following are recommendations to the U.N. World Conference on Human Rights, to be held in Vienna, Austria, on June 14-25, 1993, adopted at the Fifth Human Rights Conference of the International Academy for Development in Freedom in Sintra, Portugal, on Nov. 18-23, 1992.

In November 1992 a group of 30 persons with experience in the field of human rights met at the "International Academy for Development in Freedom" in Sintra, Portugal, to consider reports on various human rights issues with a view to formulating recommendations to the coming world conference on human rights. The participants in this seminar, mainly from developing countries and drawn from international organs, governments, parliaments, political parties, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), reflected diverse perspectives on human rights.

The Sintra conference recognised the significant progress that has been made in the protection of human rights since the first World Conference on Human Rights in Tehran in 1968 as a result of the joint efforts of the United Nations, governments, NGOs, and the peoples of the world. On the other hand, it was agreed that serious violations of human rights are still prevalent throughout the world and that there is an urgent need to review the existing instruments and institutions at the national, regional and international levels and to consider the creation of new institutions in order to establish a world order in which human rights are effectively protected.

The Sintra conference welcomes the World Conference on Human Rights as it provides an opportunity for the community of nations and the peoples of the world, represented by governments and non-governmental organisations, to reaffirm their commitment to the advancement of human rights, to assess the present state of human rights throughout the world and to consider the creation of new instruments and institutions to deal with the flagrant and massive violations of human rights that threaten humankind.

In order to assist the world conference in its deliberations and decision-making the Sintra conference resolved to recommend that the world conference should:

1. Establish the post of special commissioner on human rights.
2. Affirm with new vigour the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples.
3. Extend the existing humanitarian conventions to cover all the victims of internal armed conflicts.
4. Give close attention to the implementation of existing norms for the persons belonging to particularly vulnerable groups.
5. Resolve that all regions adopt instruments and institutions that incorporate the principles of the international bill of human rights.
6. Resolve that these arrangements create institutions that provide individuals, groups and states with speedy and effective remedies for the enforcement of human rights.
7. Pay greater attention to the promotion of social, economic and cultural rights and to the enforcement of these rights;
8. Recommend that human rights be incorporated in the formulation of the social, economic and cultural programmes of states, regional bodies and international organisations;
9. Recommend that particular attention be paid in regional arrangements to human rights norms and that discriminatory practices in the areas of immigration, asylum and the treatment of refugees and displaced persons be ended.
10. Affirm that states of emergency should not result in the arbitrary denial of the obligations assumed in regional or in-

ternational human rights standards.

11. Adopt mechanisms to ensure that states accede to all international human rights instruments and take steps to ensure their incorporation into enforceable national legislation.

12. Urge states to adjust their political institutions or to establish new institutions in order to create democratic and legitimate systems of government.

13. Give priority to policies which strengthen the independence of the judiciary and the efficiency of the administration of justice.

14. Recommend that municipal and provincial law provides effective protection of human rights.

15. Urge all states to provide a legal environment in which independent non-governmental human rights organisations are encouraged to fulfill their task to contribute effectively to the protection and promotion of human rights.

16. Reaffirm that the respect of the freedom of thought, conscience and religion as a fundamental human right in all countries is a precondition for peace within and among nations.

17. Urge that all member states of the United Nations guarantee the freedom of opinion, free access to information and the media as well as full access to governmental information and archives.

18. Recommend for states to provide guidelines, assistance, prevention, treatment and sanctions by legal and other social means to address issues concerning domestic violence, abuse and mistreatment.

19. Resolve that all states support human rights education programmes and give full publicity to human rights and the international, regional and national instruments available for their enforcement.

Progress towards the achievement of these goals would serve as a fitting tribute to those many women and men who have sacrificed their lives for the creation of a better world.

Issues and policies for the next decade and their international implementation

The end of the cold war gives us the first opportunity this century to depoliticise the implementation of human rights norms in their entirety, as set forth in the international bill of human rights. Much progress has been made in the evolution of standards and mechanisms on many aspects of the protection of civil and political rights; there remains, however, a need for the effective implementation of these standards. Of equal importance is the further elaboration of these standards and the development of mechanisms for the more effective implementation of economic, social, and cultural rights. There is today, furthermore, an urgent need to reassert and reinforce the indivisibility of all human rights in practice.

There is a close interrelationship between human rights, democracy, and development. Particularly in this period of transition, the responsible management of change requires the active participation of all concerned in the democratic life and the full observance of all human rights. Free and fair elections are one component of the democratic process, but in addition, such process must lead to the regular functioning of institutions which will oversee the provision and implementation of the full range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. The democratic process should furthermore provide means to secure its own sustainability. The invocation of emergency measures should only be in conformity with international standards and subject to international scrutiny.

There is a need to find ways to render operational the formulation of the right to development as expressed in the 1986 United Nations Declaration on the subject in order to ensure that the human person remains at the centre of the integral process of development, encompassing civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. To that end, effective action is needed on the part of all those involved in the process, particularly international financial institutions.

The recent recognition of new human rights, such as the right to development and the right to a healthy environment, is part of a continuing evolution of international human rights standards. Such new rights should be elaborated so as to enrich existing fundamental rights and not to restrict them.

The observance of human rights is essential to the U.N. objectives of the creation and maintenance of peace and equal rights. The U.N.'s human rights programme should accordingly be given the material and financial resources commensurate with its role.

In order to strengthen the human rights mandate of the U.N., it is recommended that the post of special commissioner on Human Rights be established as a new high-level political authority to bring great effectiveness, coherence and coordination into the field of international human rights promotion and protection. New problem areas in the field of human rights should promptly be addressed. These include:

1. The affirmation of the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples to preservation of identity and equality of rights with the majority population;
2. The provision of means of protection for internally displaced persons and victims of internal armed conflicts not covered by international humanitarian law;
3. The provision of effective implementation of existing norms and better protection for children, women and other particularly vulnerable groups such as migrant workers, the elderly, HIV or AIDS infected persons, the extremely poor, refugees, displaced persons and the disabled, among others.

Further progress is dependent upon the continued efforts on the part of U.N. member states and non-governmental actors in the field of education for the further promotion of human rights at all levels. In order to encourage respect for human rights in states, democracy at the national level should be paralleled at the international level starting with the U.N. system and with particular attention to the intergovernmental financial institutions. Further progress is also dependent upon the recognition of the accountability and accessibility of the U.N. system to non-governmental organisations.

The improvement of regional structures and institutions

1. The importance of regional institutions and mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights is hereby recognised and endorsed. Concrete actions should be taken to strengthen these regional institutions and mechanisms, where they exist, and encourage their establishment where they are non-existent.
2. Regional instruments and institutions for the protection of human rights should adopt the standards set by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments as the minimum standard for the formulation, establishment and implementation of their human rights norms.
3. Regional instruments and institutions should take into account the following considerations:

- (a) The need to ensure prompt consideration of complaints brought before them and in particular provide for emergency procedures to deal with urgent complaints.
- (b) The need to provide for wide and unhindered access by individuals, groups and states.
- (c) (1) The competent political bodies of regional institutions should promote means of enforcement of the decisions made by the organs of human rights protection.
- (2) They should not have the power to reverse the decisions reached by the regional protection bodies, but should instead seek to enforce them.
- (3) The binding character of these decisions and their publication are essential.
5. The competent political bodies of regional institutions should study the possibility of creating new organs or of enhancing the competence of existing organs of protection in the field of economic, social and cultural rights.
6. The dissemination of proper information, creation of awareness about existing instruments and mechanisms of human rights protection are an essential condition for human rights protection.
7. Cooperation between regional institutions in the field of human rights should be encouraged to advance mutual understanding and exchange of ideas and experiences.
8. Regional institutions should take into account human rights considerations in the formulation of their economic, social, cultural, and other policies and programmes for implementation within the region.
9. The problems of racial discrimination and xenophobia with their particular manifestations in discriminatory policies regarding immigration, asylum and refugees are recognised, and require that regional instruments and institutions in concert with the United Nations work to eliminate these problems.
10. Increasing numbers of displaced persons require regional and international systems that guarantee protection.
11. Widespread violations of human rights under states of emergency require more comprehensive norms and guidelines to be developed for the preservation of human rights at the regional levels.
12. Nations have sometimes deviated from universal human rights standards in the name of regional particularities or religious, cultural and traditional values. In such situations universal norms should prevail.
13. Particular recent developments have undermined the vital role that non-governmental organisations play in the promotion of human rights throughout the world. It is time to formally recognise the role and status of NGOs in international and regional human rights procedures and institutions.

as expressed in the 1986 United Nations Declaration on the subject in order to ensure that the human person remains at the centre of the integral process of development, encompassing civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. To that end, effective action is needed on the part of all those involved in the process, particularly international financial institutions.

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Issues and policies for the next decade and their implementation by national institutions

1. Increasingly throughout the world, the prevailing forms of government are nominal democracies and a variety of authoritarian regimes. Authentic democracy is the form of government that allows and guarantees the full participation as well as the human development of people. Therefore, the existence of democracy is a necessary condition for the enjoyment of human rights.
2. Implementation of these rights requires the governments to adjust their political institutions and to create the conditions for political pluralism, including the free development of political parties and grassroots organisations. The subordination of the military to civilian authority, and the political participation of the people are also necessary. In other words, the authorities in a democratic government must have legitimacy with the people.

LETTERS

The West's arrogant hypocrisy

To The Editor:

As American warplanes once again launch an attack on what appears to be a civilian target in Iraq, one can only imagine how different things would be if Iraq could arbitrarily designate a "no-fly" zone in the United States, enforced around the clock by radar and air patrols, or if U.N. inspection teams were authorised, over the objections of the White House, to inspect every shred of paper in the Defence Department in preparation for the destruction of the largest arsenal of nuclear and chemical weapons in the world's history.

Of course, such a situation seems ridiculous, because it is taken for granted throughout the entire world that the U.S. makes rules from which its own institutions are exempt.

The second example concerns the matter of population. While the Arab World (and indeed the whole southern hemisphere) is coming under tremendous political and economic pressures to curb birthrates, many industrial powers in the north are, like Israel, attempting to increase population growth rates among their own people.

Compared to the Middle East, these countries are very densely inhabited. In Germany, for example, there are about 227 people per square kilometre of land; there are 237 in the UK; 409 in the Netherlands and 253 in Israel. For comparison, there are barely 39 people for every square kilometre of land in Jordan, 74 in Syria, and a mere seven in Saudi Arabia. Moreover, the more densely-populated industrialised nations do not have those natural resources with which God has blessed this region and have therefore grown strong at the expense of others.

I was a member of a delegation, opposed to U.S. population imperialism, that attended the recent U.N. population conference at the Royal Cultural Centre. The heavy hand of the West was apparent at this event when our group attempted to approach delegates with written recommendations that had the approval of several other non-governmental organisations we consulted. These proposals called for limits on the collection by "international" agencies of private data and statistics about persons using birth control in Arab states, demanded an end to the practice of allocating fixed portions of aid and credit to population programmes and condemned the use of covert (falsely attributed) propaganda to influence culture with the goal of "devaluing" children. At the initiative of those representing the interests of the West, and in violation of U.N. rules, we were prohibited from sharing these proposals with delegates.

Make no mistake about it. These people are dead serious about getting rid of Arabs.

Elizabeth Sobo,
C/O Baobab Press,
P.O. Box 43345,
Washington, DC 20010 U.S.A.

Arafat, Mubarak meet

(Continued from page 1)

On Substance: Acceptance of Mr. Hussein and other Jerusalem Palestinians. Assurances that the five-year interim period of self-rule is not a reversible experiment but the first phase of a two-phase implementation of U.N. Resolution 242 requiring Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories in return for peace. Promises on the legislative powers of an elected Palestinian

body and the extent of its control over the use and management of land in the occupied territories, where 100,000 Israelis live in settlements among nearly two million Palestinians.

On the Israeli occupation: Easier procedure for reunification of Palestinian families divided because some members are denied residence in the occupied territories.

Mr. Musa refused to say whether Mr. Arafat agreed to send the Palestinian delegation.

Palestinians head for Washington

(Continued from page 1)

as some 40 to 50 expellees from the late 1960s and early 1970s are expected to be among the first wave of "returnees" to be allowed back before the end of April.

The repatriation of almost 200 Palestinians will begin in April if all goes according to schedule, Palestinian Central Council member Saleh Raafat said Tuesday.

In addition to the Palestinians expelled in December, over 2,000 Palestinians, many of whom were community leaders, were exiled by the Israeli occupation authorities.

The only thing Israel has said about the first wave of "returnees" is that they will not include Palestinians expelled during the intifada, said a Palestinian official in Amman on condition of anonymity.

Kuwaiti comments seen as pressure

(Continued from page 1)

It is not looking for assistance and they (the Gulf states) know it very well," he said.

In his comments to Al Hayat, Sheikh Sabah said Kuwait was ruling out normalised relations with Iraq as well as the PLO, but said he was "differentiating between the Palestinian cause and the PLO and its officials led by Chairman Yasser Arafat."

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"The people of Kuwait suffered a lot of their hands and are so disgusted with (Mr. Arafat)

King urges Muslims to end Bosnia plight

(Continued from page 1)

by our obligations towards safeguarding international peace and security in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

I do not need to re-emphasise that the continuation of the tragedy faced by the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a challenge to all coexisting and peace-loving people. The territory of a member of the United Nations has been occupied. It is regrettable that the aggression on this nascent nation should have been conducted by one of its partners of the former Yugoslavian federation; in addition, the separation process among the partners did not materialise in a peaceful and orderly manner.

The regional conflict between the Serbian republic and Montenegro on the one hand, and Bosnia on the other, was characterised by practices against innocent civilians, including women, children, and the elderly, in addition to discrimination and ethnic cleansing. Neither statutes, principles

nor international law would avow to what has been happening. It is unfortunate that the armed conflict among the republics of former Yugoslavia, ethnic cleansing and the brutal crimes are all taking place on a background of a tensing relationship between tolerant Islam and the West.

Islam is the religion of tolerance, coexistence and fraternity. Due to both political and ethnic reasons, and to historical disputes, there has been an unjustifiable and incomprehensible assault on Islamic communities and landmarks. This has led some to believe that it could be part of a wider plan in which its proponents stand against Islam as a religion with the superpower to face what it has labeled as "Islamic fundamentalism," has fostered such doubts. The manner in which international efforts were managed augmented the fears some had of certain designs aimed at weakening

Islam and to take revenge against Muslims in Bosnia. Despite the appreciated efforts exerted by some regional and international powers to contain the crisis and relieve the suffering of innocent civilians, diplomatic efforts were not serious and rigorous enough. However, we have welcomed the initiatives and steps taken by both the Clinton administration and the international arena.

The Non-Aligned Movement and the Organisation of Islamic Conference have impressed upon the United

Nations to solve the crisis. The position taken by the Security Council was rather hesitant. Furthermore, attention was focused on mediation efforts undertaken by Mr. Cyrus Vance and Sir David Owen in their capacity as representatives of the United Nations Secretary-General and the European Community. However, their plan has not yet met with the approval of the parties concerned. It is feared that the tripartite efforts are based on the dedication of the de facto situation. These fears are

deepened by the reluctance in implementing United Nations Security Council measures, such as imposing a no-fly zone and an economic embargo against one of the belligerents. This is an indication that what has been published regarding the details of the plan seems to be giving pre-eminence to the military superiority achieved by one of the parties. This would lead to an unstable future political settlement, a renewal of fighting and broadening of the conflict.

The tragic and aggravating situation on Bosnia could lead to a possible flare-up in the region. This would require deeper and more serious handling of the problem safeguarding the rights of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In conclusion, I am confident that you share my sentiments and concerns for the destiny of the Muslim people of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the impact of the continuation of their tribulation on international security and stability.

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Seles beats Sanchez Vicario

COLUMBUS, Ohio (Agencies) — After splitting the first two sets, top-ranked Monica Seles won a tiebreaker Monday night to defeat Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the featured match off the Big Bear tennis challenge exhibition.

Sanchez Vicario, ranked No. 3 in the world, then teamed with Billie Jean King to defeat Seles and Virginia Wade 6-3 in doubles. Wade had beaten King 6-3 in a senior singles match to open the third annual charity exhibition.

Andre Agassi will play John McEnroe and Bjorn Borg meets Vitas Gerulaitis in the men's singles matches. Agassi and Gerulaitis will team to play McEnroe and Borg in doubles.

Seles, winner of four of the last five Grand Slam events, dominated the opening set of her singles match with Sanchez Vicario, who was coming off a victory at Amelia Island, Florida, on Sunday. It

was Seles' first action since she was sidelined with a flu virus on Feb. 21.

Meanwhile the opening day of the \$275,000 U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships was tinged with nostalgia Monday as two 33-year-old lefthanders with fading careers played matches on the stadium court.

Tim Wilkison, a local favorite who retired from the tour two years ago, gave up 13 years in age to his 20-year-old opponent, qualifier Michael Joyce. The unranked Wilkison was given a wild card into the 32-man field but lacked speed and firepower against his fellow American, losing 6-1 6-4.

In a later match, 1990 French Open champion Andre Gomez of Ecuador, also 33 but still the owner of a world ranking of 217, was also a loser. Gomez was beaten by 27-year-old, 100th-ranked Claudio Mezzadri of Switzerland, 6-3 7-5.

Jordan Tennis Federation gets positive report from ITF

By Aileen Bannayan

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Despite the Kingdom's recent disappointing results in the Asia/Oceania Zone Group 2 Davis Cup matches against Iran and Malaysia, the Jordan Tennis Federation (JTF) recently received an encouraging thumbs up from the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

The official report from George Grime, the ITF referee who officiated the Jordan-Malaysia playoff matches March 26-28 seemed to be very favourable and showed that snags in organisation can be overcome with the concerted efforts of all concerned.

The referee's report points out that the lighting at the JTF courts is not adequate for international matches. "Although the original intention was to utilise the lighting facilities for the tie, the readings were below the minimum required for a zonal tie, and so the starting times were brought

forward to allow a full day's play in daylight," the report says.

Another fact pointed out by the report is that only one of the local referees, Abbas Aho Awad, had an ITF certification. To avoid any unwanted mishaps, Aho Awad, who is the most seasoned referee in Jordan and who holds an ITF White Badge, officiated three matches. It is therefore hoped that more referees will seek ITF certification, a fact that will surely serve players and the advancement of the game, in general.

The report mentioned that line judges and ball boys had been well-trained prior to the tie, and worked well throughout the tie.

The report also drew the JTF's attention to the fact that the Malaysian team's dressing room at the court was the only one with toilets, which resulted in "infringement of privacy by everyone. However, the visiting team's captain showed

understanding of the situation. Appropriate facilities should be considered for any future tie at this location."

Jordan was relegated to Group 3 after its 5-0 loss to Iran and 4-1 loss to Malaysia. The team mainly depended on two players, the country's top two players, Hani Al Ali, and Imad Abu Hamda.

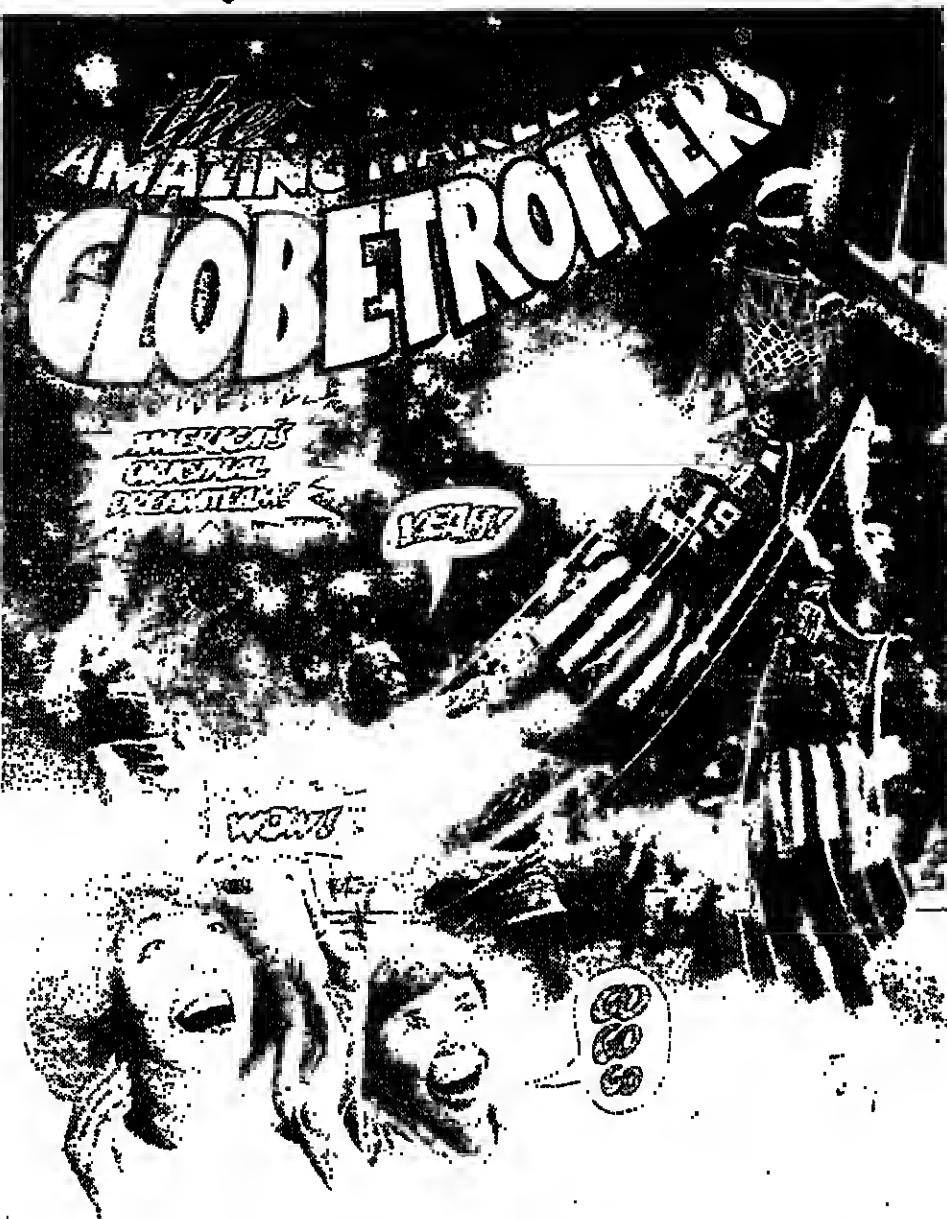
It remains to be said that the JTF will hopefully now direct its attention to preparing a younger generation of players, so that the whole burden of training, matches, the hard lessons to be learnt from losing and the joys of winning will be shared by a larger number of players.

The JTF seems to be working on this approach and has recently approved the participation of the youth's team in the eighth Arab Youth Tennis Tournament due to be held in Cairo, Aug. 20-26. The JTF also plans to host a similar tournament for the same age group next year.

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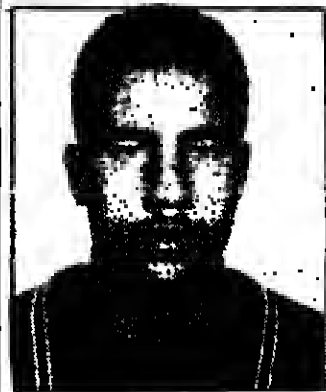
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INTER-CONTINENTAL
JORDAN

U-22 basketball team prepares for Asian competition, secures sponsorship

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's under-22 national basketball team, which will be participating in the Asian Youth Basketball Championship has received full backing from a sponsor, and will soon be leaving for Hong Kong to take part in the competition which begins April 21.

The Shaheen Business Group, has undertaken the sponsorship of the team which



Ramez Hammoodeh

will be playing in Group 3 against Iran and Japan April 22 and 23. If they win these two matches they will then face the winners of the other groups. Group 1 comprises North Korea, Singapore, Macau and Hong Kong. Group 2 includes the Philippines, Malaysia and Sri Lanka, while Group 4 includes Taipei, India and Kuwait.

The team is coached by the Jordan Basketball Federation's Russian coach, who previously coached the Iranian team — a fact that will be helpful as the Kingdom's team will face their Iranian counterparts in the qualifying round. The coach's assistant is one of the Kingdom's best players for the past decade — Imad Al Saeed.

The team includes players Marwan Al Saeedi, Mohammad Al Shamali, Ramez Hammoodeh, Mudar Barakat, Mustafa Al Ghoul, Ziyad Al Nahulsi, Mohammad Hamzeh, Ghaith Ennabi, Anwar Haddad, Youssef Abu Baker, Raed Jaber, Naser Alawneh and Maher Zuhdi.

The team has had friendly



Ghaith Ennabi

matches against other local teams and had a training camp in Amman during the Eid. However, the JBF has so far failed to provide the team with a match against a foreign national team or a match abroad.

Members of the U-22 team, however play in their respective clubs' first division teams. This is a positive fact, as they have played and seen top-level basketball for the past 3 years.

Scherbo under the microscope

BIRMINGHAM (R) — Vitaly Scherbo, who collected six gold medals at the Barcelona Olympics, will be under the microscope at the World Gymnastics Championships this week.

There are doubts about the fitness and the preparation of the 21-year-old from Belarus as he seeks to add World Championships laurels to his golden haul in Spain.

"I have had only two weeks to prepare for this," Scherbo said at the weekend, while one of his coaches said: "Not even Vitaly

knows what his routines will be." "He looks a bit heavy," an official said on Monday. "He looks as if the good life has caught up with him."

The good life for Scherbo has centred around money-spinning exhibitions in the United States. "So many towns, so many performances," he said.

But the temptation to compete for his homeland now that the unified team of last year has ceased to exist proved too strong for Scherbo to resist.

The splintering of the old Soviet Union has led to a big increase in the number of gymnasts taking part here as 10 of the separate republics are now competing under their own banners. The competitors from 62 countries will have new rules to contend with following changes aimed at coping with the increased physical demands of the sport.

One result of the revamping may be to curb the rash of perfect 10.0 scores awarded at former championships.

Scherbo, who woo team and

all-around golds as well as apparatus golds in the vault, pommel, rings and parallel bars in Barcelona, may find his greatest challenge coming from former team mates also competing for their own republics.

Gregory Misutin of Ukraine won four silver medals in Barcelona while team mate Igor Korobchinsky, three-times world champion on the floor, will seek to make up for a poor Barcelona performance.

Apart from the team gold, he won only one apparatus medal, a Bronze on the parallel bars.

Just as Scherbo is favoured among the men, so is American Shannon Miller the choice among the women after her earlier failure to take the all-around title in Barcelona from Tatiana Gutsu of Ukraine, who has retired.

Miller lost that title to Gutsu's final vault by one-tenth of a point.

Traditionally strong Romania, who produced such past champions as Nadia Comaneci, have Olympic overall bronze medalist Lavinia Milosovici back to try to improve on that result.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMAR HIRSCH
Tribune Media Service, Inc.

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 9 8 3
♥ A J 5
♦ 8 6 2
♣ K Q 10 3

EAST
♠ J 8 4
♥ Q 7 4 2
♦ 10 7 5 3
♣ 9 8

SOUTH
♠ A K 7
♥ K 10 6
♦ A Q 4
♣ J 6 5 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠

This hand is a nightmare for an avid finesse, but a joy for the technician. How would you play three no trump after the lead of a low spade? There is nothing to the auction. South has a classic one-no-trump opening bid and, with a balanced 10 points and no interest in the majors, North's raise to game is above reproach.

After a spade lead, declarer can count eight tricks once the ace of clubs is knocked out. The fulfilling trick can come from either red suit — a simple finesse in diamonds, or guessing which way to take the heart finesse.

Those declarers who are content with the surface possibilities will win the first spade, force out the ace of clubs, win the spade continuation and take the heart finesse into East. That protects against West having started with five spades and the queen of hearts. When East gathers in the queen, declarer can still fall back on the diamond finesse. A reasonable line, but as the cards lie, the contract falls short a trick.

The technician wins the first spade and forces out the ace of clubs. After winning the spade return, declarer cashes just enough clubs to exhaust the enemy's cards in the suit. Then declarer simply axils with a spade.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY APRIL 14, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A pretty good day and evening for putting an unusual plan in motion. This remarkable course of action can impress others and bring business success and pleasure. A romantic desire is starting to seem more realistic.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You find ways to get your ideas across to others so you can have a chance to succeed through them early but later an anxiety can take up your time.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Privately arrange a money deal that can bring you more security and then you would be wise to avoid taking the advice of a disgruntled person.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can depend upon a good friend who is mentally brilliant to help you out from under a complex situation, later you can join a social group that helps the distressed.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get suggestions from a bigwig on how you can gain an aim that means much to you but later sidestep a newcomer who tries to gain your sympathy.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Go to a friend to some new site where the two of you can gain an advanced information you can use wisely, after which don't get in a hassle over a bill.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Think about what will increase

your operative skill as the day begins so the future is easier, later don't encourage a whining outsider.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Consider how to wow a newcomer with your fine sense of humor and the two of you get closer while later don't take seriously the beef of an associate.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You see ways to get more benefits from the various activities in which you engage in so go after them, later expensive pleasures put you behind the eight ball.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Join with a partner at an amusement at which you can discuss future plans in harmony after which avoid the temptation to argue with a family member.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You find you can make your home much more attractive by putting more attention there while later it is wise to use much care on the highway.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You are able to contact one who brings you much pleasure and arrange a pleasant meeting so do so early, afterwards don't be extravagant.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) The daytime is fine for discussing future money matters with your household so come to a new practical understanding, then retire within yourself.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen



"When the marriage counselor told us to play together more she meant golf or bowling...not Barbies!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HASAB
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □
DUELE
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □
BOIFLE
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □
NISSIT
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

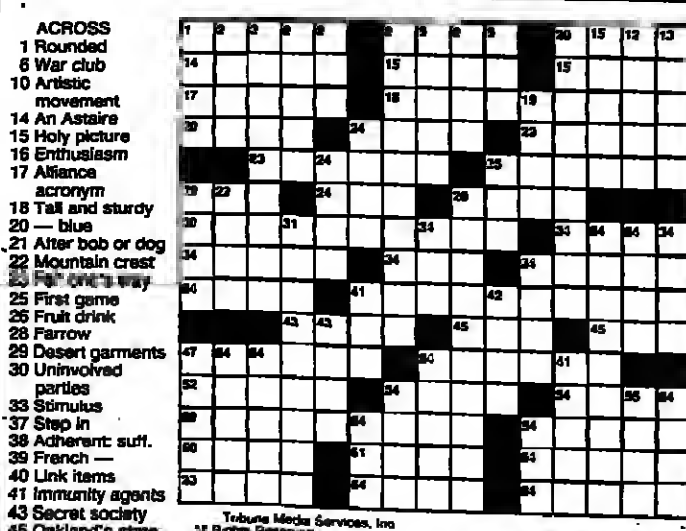


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Yesterday's Jumbles: YEARN DOUGH HALVED RATION
Answer: What a job, as by the roofer might be—
"OVER YOUR HEAD"

THE Daily Crossword by Hank Harrington



ACROSS
1 Rounded
6 War club
10 Artistic
14 An Astaire
15 Holy picture
16 Enthusiasm
17 Alliance acronym
18 Tall and sturdy
20 — blue
21 After bob or dog
22 Mountain crest
23 For one's way
25 First game
26 Fruit drink
28 Farrow
29 Desert garments
30 Uninvolved parties
33 Stimulus
37 Step in
38 Acheron: sufi.
39 French
40 Link items
41 Immunity agents
42 Secret society
45 Oakland's stars, abbr.

DOWN
1 "The Hurray"
2 European river
3 Foreign Legion
4 movie
5 Vintage auto
6 Deceptive
7 Behaved
8 Electric wire
9 Sp. queen
10 Sad
11 Unfamiliar
12 Aliquot the pool
13 Provokes
19 Parani
21 Whirl
24 French
25 Out-of-date: abbr.
26 Aid
27 Unit of force
28 Vegetables
31 Will
32 Time zone letters
35 Gallery offerings
36 Musical
37 Relax
38 Insect
42 Semitic deity
44 — about
47 Fetal
48 Gladness
49 Fowl fare
50 Beverage
51 — now and then
53 Ashen
55 Booble
56 Sea eagles
58 Inlet
59 Instrument, for short

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Economy

France cuts key interest rate

PARIS (R) — France cut one of its main interest rates Tuesday and the government predicted that the cost of money would continue falling in coming days as its plan to revive the stalled economy takes hold.

The Bank of France lowered its emergency repurchase rate, which forms the ceiling for wholesale money market rates, to 10 per cent from the 12 per cent level imposed to defend the franc during the campaign for last month's general elections.

The vote swept the Socialists from power and gave the centre-right a powerful ruling majority. The new government has promised pro-business measures, including emergency spending on building and public works.

Prime Minister Edouard Balladur said the rate cut reflected financial markets' confidence in his government's plan to pull the

economy, which slumped in the last quarter of 1992, out of its slump.

"I am convinced that interest rates will continue to fall in the days to come," Economy Minister Edmond Alphandery said.

The rate cut boosted French stocks and bond prices. The Paris bourse's CAC-40 stock index vaulted over the key 2,000-point level, rising by 1.1 per cent or more than 2,010 by mid-morning.

Mr. Balladur noted that since he was appointed on March 29, the rate on three-month loans had fallen by more than 1.5 percentage points to nine per cent, cutting the gap with German rates in half.

The central bank said it was able to cut the official rate because of the firmness of the franc against the German mark and the decline in money market interest rates, which had already fallen below 10 per cent.

U.N. body predicts growing unemployment in ex-East Bloc

GENEVA (R) — United Nations analysts Wednesday predicted growing unemployment across the former communist countries of Europe in 1993 and urged the West to focus aid on preserving popular support for reform.

The analysts, from the U.N.'s Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), also called on Western governments to keep their markets open for goods from the East and use trade as a stimulus for recovery in both sides of the continent.

In all the former communist economies "unemployment is expected to start rising rapidly as privatisation gets under way and bankruptcy laws are brought into effect," the ECE said in its annual economic survey of Europe.

In the absence of the comprehensive social safety nets that

existed under the old system, a surge in the numbers losing their jobs "would inevitably increase the dangers of social and political instability," the ECE declared.

The survey said overall output had declined by an average 10 per cent across eastern Europe in 1992, bringing the aggregate fall since the revolutions of 1989 to 30 per cent.

In the former Soviet Union, it said, the slump in production had accelerated to some 20 per cent, double the figure for 1991 and bringing the total drop since 1989 to 35 per cent.

The ECE said unemployment in western Europe, standing at around 10 per cent at the end of last year, was also likely to rise significantly in 1993.

In the East, unemployment had severely undermined earlier widespread support for the radio-

al political and economic change under way over the last four years, the U.N. agency declared.

At the end of 1992, some 6.5 million people were registered as unemployed in eastern and central Europe, with a further one million in the former Soviet Union.

But these figures were almost certainly too low and masked "labour hoarding" in state industries — retaining workers with little to do.

In Russia, according to the ECE, the number of people officially classified as living in poverty, or below the minimum subsistence income, more than doubled in 1992 and now included 29 per cent of the population of some 150 million.

The survey was issued on the eve of a meeting in Tokyo on April 14-15 — to be followed by a summit in July — of foreign and finance ministers of the Group of Seven top industrial countries at which aid to Russia will be high

on the agenda. It was compiled before a summit in Vancouver earlier this month at which U.S. President Bill Clinton promised Russian President Boris Yeltsin an aid package worth \$1.6 billion.

The survey said there had been signs in 1992 that the decline in former Soviet allied states was beginning to bottom out and that in three — Poland, Hungary and the former Czechoslovakia — recovery had begun.

This had been largely fuelled by growth in exports to western Europe encouraged by agreements with the European Community (EC) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

But recent EC action against steel imports from eastern Europe and other Western trade restrictions "not only put that recovery at risk but also threaten to undermine the reform programmes as well," the survey declared.

Japan approves stimulus package to double growth

TOKYO (R) — Japanese economic ministers Tuesday approved a 13.2 trillion yen (\$117 billion) economic stimulative package which they hope will double the growth rate and slash the country's trade surplus.

Investors showed their approval by sending Tokyo stocks soaring by 4.32 per cent. The Nikkei stock average closed above the 20,000 level for the first time since March 1992.

"The effect of the stimulus package will not start showing up until summer but investors are buying now, fearing it may be too late after the measures start bearing fruit," said Kenzo Doi at Kokusai Securities.

The government's largest-ever such package was in line with proposals the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) had unveiled earlier in the day.

This is the third economic boost the government has administered to the sluggish economy and follows a 10.7 trillion yen (\$95 billion) package unveiled last August.

Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, head of a special LDP task force set up to shake the economy out of the doldrums, told a news conference the package would ensure economic growth of 3.3 per cent in the fiscal year starting this month, against estimated growth of less than 1.6 per cent in 1992/1993.

The new package included 10.6 trillion yen (\$94.1 billion) for public works, compared with 8.6 trillion yen (\$76.3 billion) for public works in the August package. This 10.6 trillion includes 1.1 trillion yen (\$9.7 billion) to improve educational and medical facilities and utilities in what the LDP called a new spirit of focusing on "education, electronics and ecology."

As expected, the package also includes tax breaks for housing, education and capital investment totalling 170 billion yen (\$1.5 billion).

Through the package, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa hopes to stimulate the economy, boost his sagging popularity and increase imports to offset rising foreign anger over Japan's record trade surplus, which hit \$111.34 billion in the year ended March 31.

Mr. Miyazawa leaves for Washington Thursday and is due to meet President Bill Clinton Friday. The two are expected to discuss Japan's trade surplus with the United States.

"There are positive signs in parts of the economy, but it is still in a severe condition and there is concern that the recent sharp appreciation of the yen will have a major impact," the LDP said in a statement announcing the package.

The yen hit a record high of 112.60 against the dollar Tuesday.

The LDP wants the government to complete a supplementary budget needed to put the package into effect in a couple of weeks, Mr. Mitsuzuka said.

"We want parliamentary approval of the supplementary budget as soon as possible after the holiday season (from late April to early May)," he said.

This will require cooperation from opposition parties who have the power to delay the bill.

Financial Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 12/14/1993	Tokyo Close Date: 13/14/1993
Sterling Pound*	1.5465	1.5453
Deutsche Mark	1.5920	1.5947
Swiss Franc	1.4630	1.4658
French Franc	5.3915	5.3863 **
Japanese Yen	112.75	113.33
European Currency Unit	1.2213	1.2220 **

* USD Per STD
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.13	3.18	3.43
Sterling Pound	5.62	5.62	5.62	5.75
Deutsche Mark	8.18	7.87	7.37	6.68
Swiss Franc	5.06	4.93	4.75	4.43
French Franc	9.00	8.75	8.37	7.87
Japanese Yen	3.20	3.20	3.23	3.34
European Currency Unit	8.93	8.75	8.37	7.87

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Metal	USD/Oz	JDM/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JDM/Gm
Gold	336.90	6.65	Silver	3.87	.090

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6660	0.6680
Sterling Pound	1.0583	1.0636
Deutsche Mark	0.4297	0.4318
Swiss Franc	0.4678	0.4701
French Franc	0.1270	0.1276
Japanese Yen*	0.6035	0.6065
Dutch Guilder	0.3825	0.3844
Swedish Krona	0.0908	0.0913
Italian Lira*	0.0439	0.0441
Belgian Franc	0.02089	0.02099

* Per 100

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8010	1.8400
Lebanese Lira*	0.03865	0.04050
Saudi Riyal	0.1826	0.1841
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2300	2.2500
Qatari Riyal	0.1859	0.1880
Egyptian Pound	0.1950	0.2160
Omani Riyal	1.7520	1.7800
UAE Dirham	0.1859	0.1880
Creek Drachma*	0.3135	0.3345
Cypriot Pound	1.4200	1.4400

* Per 100

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market*

Index	11/14/1993	Close	12/14/1993	Close
All-Share	194.37		193.88	
Banking Sector	135.23		134.76	
Insurance Sector	214.46		214.01	
Industry Sector	276.34		276.16	
Services Sector	255.84		253.14	

* December 31, 1992 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1,000 costs	1.2603/08	Canadian dollar
	1.5920/30	Deutschmarks
	1.7890/900	Dutch guilders
	1.4620/30	Swiss francs
	32.74/78	Belgian francs
	5.3785/835	French francs
	1558/1560	Italian lire
	113.25/30	Japanese yen
	7.5190/5290	Swedish crowns
	6.7750/7850	Norwegian crowns
	6.1200/1300	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.5525/35	
One ounce of gold	\$336.90/337.30	

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING PREV. VOLUME	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHG. PRICE
ARAB BANK	112,250	131.250	131.250	0.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	48,850	4.820	4.850	0.030
BANK OF JORDAN	103,000	24.000	24.700	0.700
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	10,487	3.850	3.850	0.000
THE JORDANIAN BANK	28,251	3.690	3.670	-0.020
JORDAN FINANCIAL BANK	10,071	2.700	2.700	0.000
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	13,521	4.300	4.280	-0.020
WESTERN BANK	22,340	3.200	3.180	-0.020
BEST REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	19,480	3.300	3.300	0.000
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	27,865	1.680	1.680	0.000
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	7,500	1.400	1.380	-0.020
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	15,074	1.160	1.190	0.030
JORDAN INSURANCE	1,750	2.500	2.500	0.000
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	63,516	4.940	4.900	-0.040
ARAB LIFE & RETIREMENT INSURANCE	13,540	1.100	1.080	-0.020
AL-KHAYMA AL-ARABIA INSURANCE	426	4.500	4.300	-0.200
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER	113,709	2.500	2.500	0.000
JORDAN MOBILE TELEPHONE	6,103	1.310	1.260	-0.050
JORDAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	513	6.000	5.700	-0.300
VEHICLES OWNERS ASSOCIATION	879	5.970	5.480	-0.490
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	28,625	3.500	3.900	0.400
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	28,625	1.000	1.740	0.740
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	28,625	1.000	1.740	0.740
VEHICLES OWNERS ASSOCIATION	28,625	1.000	1.740	0.740
MECHANICAL WORKS, REPAIRING & MAINTENANCE	3,880	1.400	1.350	-0.050
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONSTRUCTION HOTELS	1,135	2.320	2.270	-0.050
ACTIVITIES COMPANY, INDUSTRIAL MANUFACTURING	1,073	1.980	1.980	0.000
THE JORDANIAN CEMENT FACTORIES	21,408	1.890	1.870	-0.020
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	3,116	10.100	10.240	0.140
MOBILE INDUSTRIES	1,000	2.470	2.500	0.030
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	2,160	6.000	6.000	0.000
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	20,581	6.720	6.750	0.030
ARAB CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	8,310	6.300	6.210	-0.090
JORDAN DAIRY	3,990	2.900	2.850	-0.050
THE JORDANIAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	5,948	2.710	2.700	-0.010
CLOTHING & TEXTILES	12,714	3.200	3.160	-0.040
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	5,805	0.710	0.700	-0.010
ARAB REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	31,437	12.100	12.700	0.600
ARAB INVESTMENT & INDUSTRIAL TRADE	101,402	3.410	3.370	-0.040
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	43,777	13.500	13.310	-0.190
SAFETY & POWER	1,748	6.000	6.000	0.000
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	2,610	1.800	1.740	-0.060
SAFETY & POWER	1,748	6.000	6.000	0.000
NATIONAL STORES INDUSTRIES	11,416	0.890	0.870	-0.020
INTERMEDIATE FIBRE-CRISTAL INDUSTRIES	1,920	2.500	2.500	0.000
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	22,318	2.700	2.680	-0.020
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	11,015	14.000	13.900	-0.100
INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS INDUSTRIES	450	4.580	4.500	-0.080
ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	1,270	1.270	1.240	-0.030
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MANUFACTURING	8,189	0.600	0.590	-0.010
JORDAN WOOD INDUSTRIES / WOOD	4,455	4.050	4.050	0.000
NATIONAL CARBON & WIRE MANUFACTURING	28,449	6.830	6.750	-0.080
ARAB CENTER FOR FRANK, & CHEMICALS	72,073	4.220	4.200	-0.020
JORDAN WINEY CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	8,186	1.820	1.800	-0.020
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	78,263	5.290	5.260	-0.030

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Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

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PHILADELPHIA

Susan Sarandon & James Spader... In

WHITE PALACE

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Arab investment agency needs more capital

DAMASCUS (R) — The head of the Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation (AIGC) said Tuesday it needed greater financial resources to meet demands on it exceeding \$1.1 billion.

AIGC Director General Ma'moun Ibrahim Hassan told Reuters in an interview the resources of the corporation, which guarantees Arab investors against political and military risks in Arab countries, were \$187 million.

Lack of capital had forced it to stop operations in some Arab countries, he said.

Mr. Hassan, in Damascus for the annual meetings of Arab development funds and financial institutions starting Tuesday, said AIGC had suffered from a shortage of finance since 1988.

The Kuwait-based corporation was established in 1975 to encourage Arab investment in Arab countries by providing guarantees against the risk of wars, confiscation, nationalisation, civil wars, coups and other risks resulting from political or economic changes.

Mr. Hassan said studies prepared for the establishment of the corporation had suggested a capital requirement of \$350 million but only \$76.5 million was made available. Reserves and

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Hanoi rejects report of secret document on American POWs

HANOI (R) — Vietnam Tuesday flatly rejected a report suggesting that it lied over the number of American prisoners it was holding shortly before the U.S. withdrawal from Indochina in 1973.

It also denied it was still holding any prisoners.

"Vietnam totally denies that ill-intentioned fabrication," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"The truth is that in 1973, after the Paris (peace) agreements were signed, Vietnam returned all American prisoners captured in Vietnam."

The issue, which flared up with disclosure of a document found in Moscow archives and said to be from the North Vietnamese army, looked likely to delay efforts to reconcile Hanoi and Washington 18 years after the Vietnam war ended.

The New York Times reported Monday that a 1972 report to the Soviet Communist Party politburo by a North Vietnamese general said Hanoi was holding hundreds more prisoners than it acknowledged — 1,205 when officials were saying the number was 368.

The ministry said that in searches for U.S. servicemen missing in the 11-year war, over 500 sets of remains had been returned to the United States.

Experts had investigated more than 70 "live sighting reports" — instances in which someone thought he or she saw an American — and 135 "discrepancy cases," on which there was conflicting evidence.

"The result shows there is no evidence of any American prisoners being held or living freely in Vietnam," the statement said.

"This reality proves that the report published in the New York Times is without foundation."

Vietnam has long maintained it had freed all the Americans captured during the war with the release of 591 U.S. prisoners in "operation homecoming" in 1973.

Vietnamese officials said the purported North Vietnamese report was a fresh instance of U.S. groups opposed to U.S.-Vietnamese reconciliation trying to derail the process.

"Hostile circles in the U.S. want to raise issues to obstruct the administration easing U.S. sanctions against Vietnam in international financial organisations," one said.

In Washington, U.S. officials said it would be the first issue raised by a senior U.S. envoy, General John Vessey, in two days of talks with Vietnamese officials next weekend.

Vietnamese government sources said the general reported to have written the document, General Tran Van Quang, could not have done so because he was commander of a military zone in central Vietnam in 1972 and was not a position to make a comprehensive report about American prisoners.

Gen. Quang, now head of the Vietnam Veterans' Association, was not available for comment.

An official at the association said of the report attributed to

Gen. Quang: "This fabrication comes out ... in order to obstruct the process of normalisation of relations between the two countries."

President Bill Clinton has continued a policy of previous administrations, setting as a condition for lifting the 29-year-old U.S. economic embargo against Hanoi the fullest possible accounting of missing Americans.

But Mr. Clinton is also under pressure from business groups and most of Washington's Western allies to lift the sanctions.

Former U.S. National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski told the New York Times he believed it was likely Vietnam shot "hundreds of American officers" in a Vietnam war massacre like the Katyn Woods slaughter of World War II.

Mr. Brzezinski told the discoverer of a newly found document which suggests that Hanoi held 1,205 U.S. prisoners of war in 1972 — three times more than it ever admitted to having — that he thought the document was authentic, the Times said in Tuesday editions.

The former Carter administration official told the newspaper that after studying the document, which was found by researcher Stephen Morris in Communist Party archives in Moscow, he believed that "the great likelihood is that the Vietnamese shot hundreds of American officers out and shot them in cold blood, in a massacre like the one in the Katyn Woods."

He was referring to the World War II massacre, when more than 4,500 Polish officers were killed in a forest near Smolensk. Mikhail Gorbachev admitted in 1990 that the Soviet secret police were responsible.

Mr. Brzezinski noted that he had no concrete evidence to support his belief the U.S. prisoners were massacred.

He said he was struck by three things in the document:

— Its style, which corresponded to other reports of a similar nature.

— The number 1,205, which he said corresponded to the approximate number of men the United States expected to be returned and

— What he called "the Katyn-like classification system."

"At the Katyn Woods they specially selected members of the Polish aristocracy," said Mr. Brzezinski, an expert on Soviet affairs. "And here you have the same kind of ominous pattern, with prisoners being classified according to their degree of intransigence in refusing to condemn the war. They say the officers come from rich families, which explains their attitude."

Mr. Brzezinski speculated that Vietnam concealed the existence of the POWs after the peace agreement because they feared the United States would renew fighting, or because Hanoi planned to seek financial reparations, the Times said.

"I think the chances are very small that any more than a few might have been kept alive until now," he said.

U.N. brings aid, makes new bid to evacuate Srebrenica refugees

SARAJEVO (R) — United Nations officials made a new attempt to evacuate Muslims from Srebrenica Tuesday and strongly criticised the Serbs whom they blame for killing 56 people in an artillery barrage on the Bosnian town.

As aid trucks reached the besieged town, a spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said the organisation's food stocks in former Yugoslavia were almost exhausted and aid convoys into Bosnia-Herzegovina might be suspended.

"Unless something is done about it, we're going to run out in a few days," said UNHCR spokeswoman Sylvania Foa in Geneva.

A NATO spokesman in Vienna, northern Italy, said alliance fighters flew 30 sorties over Bosnia Monday, the first day of enforcing a U.N. no-fly zone over the former Yugoslav Republic.

In Sarajevo, UNHCR officials lashed the Bosnian Serbs for their role in the attack on Srebrenica, which erupted minutes after the operation to police the air exclusion zone began.

But the deputy commander of the Bosnian Serb army, General Milan Gvero, accused Srebrenica's Muslim defenders of improvising the explosions to convince the U.N. the Serbs had shelled the town, which is in eastern Bosnia.

"The Muslims' intention is to focus media attention on Srebrenica and present it to the world as a place under threat by the Serbs," he told Reuters.

Srebrenica was quiet overnight and on Tuesday morning, U.N. officials said, but they were in no doubt about who carried out Monday's attack, which they said also seriously wounded 73.

UNHCR spokesman John MacMillan said: "In their apparently pathological drive to acquire territory the Serbs are willing to kill anybody to achieve



A Dutch F-16 jet fighter prepares to take off from the Italian base in Villafranca to cross into Bosnia airspace in the first direct Western military intervention in the republic's year-old communal war (AFP photo)

their ends."

Larry Hollingworth, UNHCR chief of operations in Sarajevo, who has visited Srebrenica, said: "I hope that the military commander who ordered the firing on Srebrenica burns in the hottest corner of hell."

Recent U.N. attempts to evacuate refugees have failed because authorities have insisted on the use of covered trucks after stones were thrown at a recent convoy, injuring six women.

Tuesday's convoy went in with covered trucks and it was hoped to continue the operation in which the U.N. hopes to bring out 15,000 people from Srebrenica.

U.N. Protection Force spokesman Barry Frewer said UNPROFOR Commander General Lars-Eric Wahlgren had written to Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic expressing revulsion and outrage at the attack on Srebrenica.

"This is a disastrous development for a situation rapidly deteriorating despite promises that a political solution will be pur-

sued," the letter said.

Mr. Frewer said UNPROFOR had evidence Bosnian forces in Srebrenica had fired tank rounds at Serb positions outside town shortly before the Serb bombardment but Mr. MacMillan said there was no firm evidence of this.

In Paris, French Defence Minister Francois Leotard confirmed the commander of U.N. forces in Bosnia, General Philippe Morillon, would be recalled by the end of the month.

Asked by an Europe 1 Radio interviewer whether Gen. Morillon would still be in his post in May, Mr. Leotard said: "No."

He said the recall was a routine matter and denied that Gen. Morillon was being disciplined for having taken initiatives to rescue the besieged Muslim population of Srebrenica without consulting the military hierarchy.

Mr. Leotard rejected an appeal by intellectual Andre Glucksmann to keep Gen. Morillon in place as a gesture of support for his humanitarian action in former Yugoslavia.

Column 800000

Raisa Gorbachev in hospital

RICHMOND, Virginia (R) — Former Soviet first lady Raisa Gorbachev checked herself into hospital here Monday complaining of fatigue as her husband, ex-President Mikhail Gorbachev, abruptly cancelled a local trip.

After undergoing exams and conferring with doctors, Mrs. Gorbachev left the hospital, officials said. Mrs. Gorbachev, accompanying her husband on a five-day U.S. speaking tour which began Saturday, checked into the Medical College of Virginia Hospital for exams, a hospital spokeswoman said. "Mrs. Gorbachev has had a history of high blood pressure for which she has been treated for in Russia."

Drunken climber arrested on Moscow cathedral

MOSCOW (AP) — An intoxicated man climbed the outside of St. Basil's Cathedral got stuck between two of the landmark's famed onion domes, and had to be rescued by the fire department, authorities said.

Sergei Sabirov, 22, was spotted shortly after midnight by passers-by on the 16th century cathedral yelling for someone to help him, said Vladimir Zubkov, a police spokesman. Mr. Sabirov was removed from St. Basil's by firefighters, then detained by Red Square Police, Mr. Zubkov said.

He was turned over to city police and sentenced to five days in jail for hooliganism, Mr. Zubkov said.

Bardot's husband to run for mayor of Saint-Tropez

SAINT-TROPEZ, France (R) — The husband of Actress Brigitte Bardot, Bernard D'Ormale, is planning to run for mayor of the trendy French Riviera resort of Saint-Tropez.

Mr. D'Ormale, close to extreme right National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen, told the Nice-Matin newspaper he wanted an "apolitical" local campaign, to restore to Saint-Tropez a "festive mood it had in the sixties." The resort is renowned for its topless beaches. Mr. D'Ormale was quoted as saying he wanted "to leave Brigitte out of all this fuss."

Bardot, 58, a screen sex goddess in the sixties, married Mr. D'Ormale, her fourth husband, last year.

Thieves steal everything, including kitchen sink

LONDON (R) — Industrious thieves looted a luxury British home while the Burglar alarm was switched off and stole goods worth about £10,000 (\$15,180) — including the kitchen sink, police said.

The robbers completely gutted the uncoccupied £250,000 (\$379,600) house in southwestern England. They carted away kitchen units, skirting boards, doors, radiators and two bathroom suites, including baths, toilets and bidets. The security alarm was switched off after neighbours complain. The house was empty while the owner was on holiday after spending six months in hospital after a heart attack.

Policewoman fired for working as housemaid

MANTILA (R) — A Philippines policewoman was fired after her superiors discovered she had left the country to work as a housemaid in Saudi Arabia. Master Sergeant Tessie Quibuyen had been missing since February when she failed to report for her new assignment at National Police Headquarters, a police spokesman said.

Police Chief Raul Imperial sacked her after labour officials told him she was now working in Saudi Arabia as a maid. A master sergeant in the Philippines earns about \$150 a month but Filipinos working as maids in the Middle East can earn more than twice that.

Euro Disney celebrates 1st birthday

PARIS (R) — Euro Disneyland, the giant theme park outside Paris, celebrated its first birthday by turning its magic castle into a huge strawberry cake as 60,000 "guests" queued for up to two hours to use its attractions.

Philippe Bourguignon, the company's new French chairman, declared the entertainment park a roaring commercial success despite forecasting a substantial loss this year and trouble with its real estate development plan.

Clinton walks fine line in clash with Republicans

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton is talking tough with Republicans in hopes of overcoming a political stand-off in Congress that threatens his \$16.3 billion jobs programme.

But his apparent willingness also to seek a compromise is encouraging some Washington insiders to recall former President George Bush's charge during last year's campaign that Mr. Clinton waffles in a pinch. Other see his tactics as good politics.

In his harshest attack yet, Mr. Clinton Monday accused his Republican foes of making America's children "bustards" in the political fight because \$300 million of the money in the stimulus programme would be used to immunise youngsters.

More tough talk was expected Tuesday night when Mr. Clinton speaks on the country's economic problems at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Headquarters in Washington.

On Monday, Mr. Clinton, pointing at children gathered on the White House lawn for an annual Easter egg roll, said, "Look out there at those kids. They are the hostages of the Senate filibuster."

Republicans in the Senate are using a legislative stalling tactic known as a filibuster, by which one party or group of legislators can hold up the passage of a bill by refusing to yield the floor indefinitely.

The Republicans contend that much of the money in the stimulus bill would pay for so-called "pork-barrel" projects and do little to create jobs in a \$6 trillion economy.

"Pork barrel" is slang for the distribution of government appropriations according to political patronage.

Senate Republican leader Bob Dole shot back, "It's a shame President Clinton has resorted to using the children at the Easter egg hunt as a partisan political backdrop to hatch a new excuse for his so-called stimulus package."

In a statement issued by his office Sen. Dole said Mr. Clinton should tell the children "that he wants to saddle them with bigger deficits instead of paying for this new immunisation spending" and other elements of his stimulus plan.

When asked if he would revise the plan to meet Republican objections, Mr. Clinton said: "Let's not talk about compromise."

"This is about whether you want to reduce the unemployment rate in America by another half a percentage point for a very modest amount, and they don't ... they want more people to stay out of work," he said.

A short time later, however, White House spokesman George Stephanopoulos told reporters: "If it's going to take certain adjustments to spring the jobs bill (Clinton) is prepared to make them."

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

China, U.K. to discuss Hong Kong

PEKING (R) — China and Britain have agreed to hold talks about elections in Hong Kong starting on April 22 in Peking, the British embassy said Tuesday. The two countries have been at loggerheads for months over plans by Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten for democratic reforms in the colony before it reverts to China in 1997. The Peking talks will be between Sir Robin McLaren, British ambassador to China, and Jiang Enzhu, vice-minister of foreign affairs. Michael Sze, Hong Kong's secretary for constitutional affairs, his deputy Peter Lai and William Ehrman, political adviser to Gov. Patten, will be present at the talks "to provide support to the ambassador," according to a British embassy spokeswoman. She quoted Gov. Patten as saying his bill on democratic reform would not be put to the colony's legislature while the talks were in progress.

IRA rejects ceasefire

DUBLIN (R) — The IRA, spurning peace feelers from Britain and Ireland, has ruled out the prospect of a ceasefire in one of the world's longest-running guerrilla conflicts. In an uncompromising message, the Irish Republican Army (IRA) said its "denial of national rights" will continue to be met with armed resistance in Northern Ireland and elsewhere. Monday night's blunt statement came against a backdrop of widespread Anglo-Irish revulsion over an IRA bombing last month that killed two English children and sparked the launch of a new "people power" peace movement. Britain is trying to restart peace talks which broke down last November and moderate Irish nationalist John Hume staged secret weekend talks with Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams, leader of the IRA's political wing.

Indian police break up Kashmir protest

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Indian paramilitary police Tuesday broke up a separatist protest march with canes, tear-gas and gunfire in Srinagar, summer capital of India's troubled Jammu and Kashmir state. Some 1,000 Kashmiri Muslims attempted to march in protest against the alleged killings of five people held in detention by Indian security forces, witnesses said. The state government had no immediate comment on the alleged deaths. It usually says in such cases that the dead were either militants killed in clashes with security forces or civilians caught in the crossfire. The marchers alleged that the bodies of four young men delivered by security forces to police headquarters Tuesday morning had been picked up during a cordon-and-search operation Monday, then killed in custody.

Astronauts pluck satellite from orbit

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — After a daylong chase, the space shuttle Discovery early Tuesday overtook and retrieved a satellite released by astronauts to study the sun. Astronaut Ellen Ochoa used Discovery's spindly robot arm at 3:19 a.m. EDT (0719 GMT) to reach out and grab the satellite, known by the acronym SPARTAN, and place it back in the ship's cargo bay for a return to Earth Friday. "Houston, we've captured SPARTAN," Mr. Ochoa radioed mission control. SPARTAN spent about 50 hours as a free-flying satellite with two automated telescopes gathering data about the sun and the solar wind streaming from it. On each orbit last Monday, the shuttle gained about 11.5 miles on the satellite. At the most distant separation, the shuttle trailed SPARTAN by about 200 miles before a series of 10 burns began.

KAL bomber wants to marry

SEOUL (R) — A repentant secret agent for Communist North Korea who blew up a South Korean passenger jet and killed all 115 on board says she now wants to marry and lead a normal life, a newspaper reported Tuesday. Kim Hyun-Hui, 31, saved from the hangman's noose by a government pardon, said she wanted to meet a "good person" and start a family. The Dong-A Ilbo quoted her as saying, "Ms. Kim, the daughter of a North Korean diplomat, was 26 when she and a 69-year-old partner planted a bomb on a South Korean flight from Abu Dhabi to Bangkok in 1987. The plane blew up near Burma, killing all on board. Captured in Bahrain, Ms. Kim was sentenced to death in South Korea but pardoned three years later on the grounds that she had been brainwashed by the North. Her partner killed himself with cyanide as they were arrested."

12 dead, 28 missing as ship sinks off Spain

GIJON, Spain (R) — At least 12 people died and 28 others were missing, feared dead, after an Indian cargo ship sank in icy seas off the north coast of Spain, maritime authorities said Tuesday. Helicopters plucked 16 survivors out of the water but one of them later died in hospital. Some of the others were seriously ill, a hospital spokesman said. The 10,092-tonne cargo ship Vishva Mohini sank 50 nautical miles northwest off the port of Gijon, Monday night, the Spanish Marine Rescue Service said. There were believed to be 55 people on board the ship at the time, 47 crew and eight relatives of the crew members. Four helicopters were immediately sent to the area and four ships are scouring the region for the missing people.

Yeltsin, in Siberia, pledges firmer reform

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin flew to a Siberian coal-mining centre Tuesday and pledged to pursue reforms with greater determination if he wins a key referendum on April 25.

"If the people shows trust in us, we will carry out a firmer reform policy," he told reporters on arrival in Novokuznetsk. "I am also thinking, but to a lesser extent, about the fact that my personal fate is being decided on April 25."

Mr. Yeltsin, 62, declined to forecast the results of the referendum, which includes questions on confidence in him and his economic policy and on early elections for both the presidency and the rival parliament.

Mr. Yeltsin, visiting Russia's main coalfield to drum up support in advance of the referendum, said the government was preparing a programme for social measures for coal-miners.

Meanwhile Parliamentary Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov said Tuesday that the Russian parliament would never ratify the START-2 disarmament treaty while Andrei Kozyrev remained foreign minister.

Jittery Los Angeles awaits verdict from streets

LOS ANGELES (R) — A jury deliberating charges against four police officers has Los Angeles on edge, but it is the verdict of the angry young men in the city's South Central slums that may determine whether last year's riot is repeated.

The jury must decide whether the white policemen violated the civil rights of black motorist Rodney King when they beat and kicked him following his arrest after a car chase. A witness filmed the beating on video and it was later televised.

The federal jury of nine whites, two blacks and one Hispanic deliberated for a third day Monday. Experts have predicted it could take a week or more for the jury to arrive at a decision.

Following the acquittal of the four in a suburban state trial last year, rioting took the lives of 53 people in Los Angeles and caused \$1 billion in damages — most of it in the city's impoverished South Central neighbourhood.

At the corner of Florence and Normandie — ground zero for last year's explosion of rioting — poor black and Hispanic residents braced for the outcome of the second trial.

Some threatened to take to those and other streets in another spree of looting and violence if the jury acquits the officers.

"If they tell us there ain't no justice for black people, it's gonna be worse than last time," said Ronald Green, 31, as he sat sipping wine outside a decaying one-story house. "We ain't taking no prisoners."

A muscular youth nods in agreement, but another standing nearby said it was all talk.

"Whatever the verdict is, nobody's gonna start anything," he said. "People in the community are just sick and tired of all the trouble."

It is the kind of argument between neighbours that could make all the difference for South Central.

Police intend to mount a huge show of force to prevent rioting once the verdicts are returned — 6,500 officers on the streets by then. Hundreds of National Guards are also being deployed, with many more in reserve.

But they acknowledge they cannot be everywhere at once.

Stark reminders of the 1992 riots remain. Blocks of small stores damaged in the rioting remain scorched and shattered. Residents believe many burnt-out businesses will never return.

Despite promises, little has been done to relieve the tensions and frustrations that helped ignited the worst urban riots in modern U.S. history. Inner-city unemployment approaches 50 per cent, crack cocaine is sold openly and gangs have many law-abiding citizens living in terror.

If trouble starts after the verdicts, some believe street gangs will be at the centre of it. They are believed to be better armed after looting gunshops during last year's riots.

"We are more organised than you think we are, and we have more firepower than you think we have," a young black caller told Police Chief Willie Williams

during a radio call-in show.

Some gang members have threatened to invade the city's wealthy white suburbs instead of hitting their own areas, but police say they have found no evidence of such plans.

U.S. Police Departments have finished their training and made contingency plans. Municipal and church leaders have spread a message of peace in speeches and sermons. Marches and demonstrations have been organised.

Now, cities across the United States and Canada can only wait and hope there will be no violent backlash as a federal jury in Los Angeles decides the fate of the four white policemen.

"We've been working to encourage people to be peaceful. We're just kind of keeping our fingers crossed," said Lullain McGriff, president of the San Francisco branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP).

However, Ms. McGriff said she felt there was more tension than after the first King trial last year, partly caused by irresponsible media coverage. If the officers are acquitted, it would lead to a lot of frustration and further undermine faith in the justice system, she told Reuters.

Apart from the death and destruction in Los Angeles, cities as diverse as San Francisco, Las Vegas, Seattle, Atlanta and Toronto in Canada also had disturbances last year.

San Francisco, where looters went on a rampage after the verdict, causing \$1.5 million of

damage, has put its faith in a two-pronged strategy this time.

The police will be on full alert, but city officials have also worked to improve contacts with minority communities to defuse tension.

"We are not anticipating any riots, but we will be prepared," said Police Department spokeswoman Suzanne Trazoff in New York City, where only minor, scattered incidents of violence were reported after the verdict.

Ms. Trazoff said New York Police would get a three-hour warning from Los Angeles authorities before the verdict is made public. They would be ready to shift street officers to any trouble spots and hold them overtime if the verdict comes in at the end of their shifts.

The Atlanta Police Department made a special effort to put more officers on the beat beginning Monday to deter possible trouble and set up a telephone hotline for citizens to report and check rumours related to the King case.

In Seattle, 1,200 miles (1,900 km) north of Los Angeles, the second King trial has reawakened concerns about racial prejudice and civil disturbances in a largely white city whose black mayor, Norm Rice, often set a tone of racial harmony.

In the U.S. capital — calm after last year's verdict — neither Washington nor U.S. Park Police were making special preparations for possible unrest. "We don't anticipate having any problems," a Washington Police spokesman said.